









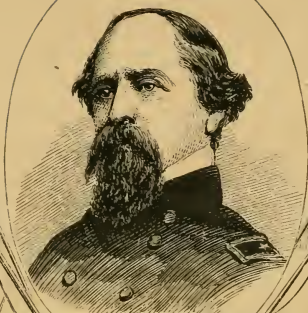








DIV. COM.



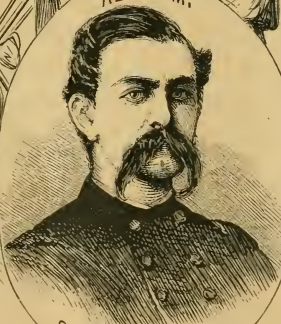
GEN. J. B. RICKETTS.

BRIG. COM.



GEN. J. WARREN KEIFER.

REG. COM.



COL. M. R. MCLELLAN.

# HISTORY

OF THE

One Hundred and Thirty-Eighth Regiment,

PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY.

BY

OSCEOLA LEWIS.

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*Ex* NORRISTOWN: 72  
WILLS, IREDELL & JENKINS.  
1866,

*W. J. Jenkins*

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132th

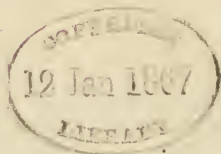
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DEDICATED,

WITH RESPECT AND VENERATION, TO THE SACRED MEMORY OF

“Our Noble Dead,”

WHO, AS VOLUNTEERS IN THE CAUSE OF THEIR COUNTRY'S  
SALVATION, AND OF LIBERTY TO ALL MEN,

CHEERFULLY YIELDED UP ALL WORLDLY PLEASURES,

AND LIFE ITSELF,

A WILLING SACRIFICE.



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## INTRODUCTION.

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READER:—

The writer of this record of one of the finest volunteer organizations representing the "Keystone State" in the war for the suppression of the recent great Rebellion, is conscious that he has assumed a task proportionately too great for his ability; but with an earnest desire to perpetuate, at least in the minds of their families, friends, and posterity, the names and services of a gallant band of men who aided in the defence of their country from the murderous attacks of domestic traitors, it is presented to the public.

It has been his endeavor to embrace in this history the organization, existence and dissolution, movements and campaigns, actions and casualties, promotions and alterations of the Regiment, with a complete list of its members; to be accurate and truthful: to avoid bombast and individual eulogies; to award credit impartially, and do justice to all.

Those who have belonged to and served with the Regiment will doubtless discover many errors and deficiencies; and the disinterested reader will find ample room for criticism. But the leniency of all is entreated; and, at the same time, the assurance is extended that the undersigned makes no professions nor claims to literary capacity, and that, in compiling this work, he had to depend to a great extent upon memory to supply the matter which fills these pages. The writer trusts that his good intentions will atone for all faults and inaccuracies, and that the result of his labors will prove acceptable.

OSCEOLA LEWIS,

*Late 1st Lieutenant, Co. I, 138th Penna. Vols.*

NOERISTOWN, PA., Dec. 31, 1865.





# HISTORY

OF THE

One Hundred and Thirty-Eighth Regt. P. V.

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## CHAPTER I.

ITS ORGANIZATION, OFFICERS, MATERIAL, &C.

Among the first to respond to the call for volunteers made by President Lincoln in July, 1862, and the very first three years organization to leave the Keystone State under that requisition, was the 138th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

It was not recruited as a regiment, like many were at that time, but hastily organized by a consolidation of independent companies from different portions of the State. The first Company (A) was enrolled by Captain M. R. McClennan, of Norristown, and composed of men from that ob-

rough, Conshohocken, Barren Hill, and other towns and villages in Montgomery county. It was designed at first to serve in a nine months regiment, but not being recruited to full strength by the time limited for that purpose by the Governor, the officers resolved to change the period of enlistment to three years. After so doing, their company soon increased to the required number, and left Norristown August 16th, 1862, when it repaired to the State rendezvous at Harrisburg.

Company "B" was enlisted by Captain John F. McCreary, of Adams county, principally at Gettysburg and its immediate vicinity.

Company "C," organized by Captain George W. Guss, consisted of men residing in Norristown, Bridgeport, and the surrounding country, and arrived at the rendezvous August 16, 1862.

Company "D" was raised by Captain John S. Stuckey, of Bedford county, at Bedford, Schellsburg, and other places in that county.

Company "E," commanded by Captain Simon Dickerhoof, hailed also from Bedford county, and chiefly from the county seat.

Company "F," Captain Lewis A. May, came from Cumberland Valley, Bedford Springs, and other portions of the same county.

Company "G," composed of Adams county boys, was enrolled by Captain James H. Walter, at Bendersville, Heidlersburg, and other country towns.

Company "H" was organized by Captain Lazarus C. Andress, in Bucks county, and contained men from Doylestown, Yardleyville, and vicinity.

Company "I" was formed by Captain Augustus G. Feather, of detachments from Norristown, Port Kennedy and Hatboro', Montgomery county, and a squad from Sellersville, Bucks county.

Company "K" came into organization last, and under the command of Captain Richard T. Stewart, of Norristown. It contained a few men from that borough, but was principally recruited from the country, in Montgomery county. Philadelphia and Bucks counties had also a few representatives in it.

After their arrival at Harrisburg, the several companies were inspected and mustered in as speedily as possible, and by the 26th of August it had been completed, with the exception of a few detachments. The ten companies, heretofore described, were then thrown together under the direction of the commanding officer of Camp Curtin, and designated the "138th Infantry."

The organization of the regiment being com-

pleted, it became necessary for it to have a responsible head, and soon the company officers were bustling about in search of a commander. Unlike most regiments, it had no embryotic Colonel whose "eagles" were fluttering in prospect before the muster-in rolls were filled; and the company commanders evidently being very modest and unambitious, not one of them showed aspiration to a higher position at that time.

However, the Adams county officers, being especially energetic, managed to secure a candidate, and presented him with many recommendations to their "brothers in shoulder-straps."

The first and chief reason given why he should be well qualified for the command of a regiment was that he was a "Minister of the Gospel" and a man of fine attainments.

Then, also, he had experience in military matters, or, in other words, he drilled a volunteer company in the "Zouave Manual," and to do that he must be "posted in tactics."

His intellectual ability was great, his personal appearance imposing, and the officers of the newly formed 138th thought him to be "just the man." They recommended him to his Excellency the Governor; a commission was granted, and Charles

L. K. Sumwalt, of Baltimore, became "Colonel commanding the Regiment."

At the original regimental organization the following officers were in commission:—

Colonel Charles L. K. Sumwalt.

1st Lieut. and Qr. Mas. Edward B. Moore.

(The Field and Staff had not been properly filled by appointments to all the grades.)

*Company A.*—Capt. M. R. McClennan, 1st Lieut. Charles Y. Fisher, 2d Lieut. Samuel J. Yarger.

*Company B.*—Capt. John F. McCreary, 1st Lieut. Jacob W. Cress, 2d Lt. Geo. A. Earnshaw.

*Company C.*—Capt. George W. Guss, 1st Lieut. William Neiman, 2d Lieut. John A. Wills.

*Company D.*—Capt. John S. Stuckey, 1st Lieut. Josiah Baughman, 2d Lieut. John A. Gump.

*Company E.*—Capt. Simon Dickerhoof, 1st Lieut. John Getty, 2d Lieut. Thos. A. Prideaux.

*Company F.*—Capt. Lewis A. May, 1st Lieut. John W. Feight, 2d Lieut. (vacant.)

*Company G.*—Capt. James H. Walter, 1st Lieut. George W. Wilson, 2d Lieut. George W. Mullen.

*Company H.*—Capt. L. C. Andress, 1st Lieut. William B. Lovett, 2d Lieut. John Sigafoos.

*Company I.*—Capt. Augustus G. Feather, 1st Lieut. Jonathan T. Rorer, 2d Lieut. Jno. H. Fisher.

*Company K.*—Capt. Richard T. Stewart, 1st

Lt. Amos W. Bertolet, 2d Lt. Jonathan P. Iredell.

The material composing the rank and file of the regiment was excellent. In point of intelligence and general good deportment the men could not be surpassed by those of any other organization in the army. They came, as a class, from the most respectable of families, and in their enlistment were not actuated either by the novelty of military life, or by any desire for gain, but entered the service of their country from motives of pure patriotism, feeling that the national Government demanded their active support, and realizing the importance of strengthening the Union armies promptly and effectively.

It is well known that during the first year of the rebellion the people did not know what *war* really was. It required time to develop the magnitude of the contest, and to expose the countless dangers and severe sacrifices, which are the inevitable consequences of civil strife, to the public eye.

With these lessons before them, the men of the 138th Regiment went forth to the field of action upon the sole conviction that duty called them; and at a period when the iron strength and patriotism of the country was called forth without pecuniary or other inducements.

While at Harrisburg the troops were confined



in Camp Curtin, which was in a dusty, filthy and very loathsome condition.

On the 30th of August, 1862, arms, equipage and clothing were issued, and the regiment was ordered to prepare to move to the front.

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## CHAPTER II.

THE FIRST MOVEMENT, PROMOTIONS, DISCIPLINE,  
THE B. & O. R. R., ANTIETAM, &C.

Transportation being furnished on the 30th August, the regiment proceeded southward via the Northern Central Railroad. Many and conflicting rumors were current respecting its destination, but it seemed to be generally believed that Fortress Monroe was the objective point of the first movement. Others thought that we were *en route* to join McClellan's army, or to "guard around Washington," and so on.

The fact of the matter was that no one knew, not even the commanding officer, until we arrived at Baltimore city, and were ordered by Major General Wool, commanding the "Middle Department, 8th Army Corps," to encamp at the station on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, known as

“Washington Junction” or “Relay House,” which is nine miles from Baltimore and thirty-one from Washington.

This very unexpected command was complied with on the 31st, and the regiment was soon after comfortably situated in “A” or “wedge” tents, in a pleasant location about half a mile from the railroad station.

The usual exercises and other duties of the camp, drills, police, fatigue, &c., were at once put into practice, with a view to preserve health and promote the efficiency of the regiment.

A chain-guard was placed around the entire camp, and details of men were daily instructed to perform duty as sentinels.

The following promotions and appointments occurred shortly after the arrival at Relay House, by which all existing vacancies were then filled :

Capt. M. R. McClennan, Co. A, to Lt. Colonel.

Capt. Lewis A. May, Co. F, to Major.

Dr. Charles E. Cady, of Philadelphia, to Asst. Surgeon, Sept. 7, 1862.

Dr. Thos. C. Thornton, of Lewisburg, to Asst. Surgeon.

Rev. J. F. Porter, of Adams co., to Chaplain.

1st Lieut. Jacob W. Cress, Co. B, to Adjutant.

1st Lieut. Charles Y. Fisher, Co. A, to Captain.

2d Lieut. Saml. J. Yarger, Co. A, to 1st Lieut.  
 1st Sergt. John E. Essick, Co. A, to 2d Lieut.  
 2d Lieut. Geo. A. Earnshaw, Co. B, to 1st Lieut.  
 1st Sergt. Harvey W. McKnight, Co. B, to 2d  
 Lieut.

The non-commissioned Staff was also organized by most excellent selections from several companies, as follows:—

Corporal Henry C. Grossman, Co. B, to Sergeant Major.

Sergeant James W. Kennedy, Co. I, to Quarter Master Sergeant.

Private David L. McKenzie, Co. B, to Commissary Sergeant.

Private James G. Wells, Co. K, to Hospital Steward.

All vacancies now being supplied with occupants, the regiment daily became more efficient; the machinery of complete organization was started, and afterward continued with satisfaction to commanding officers and all parties generally interested.

The discipline of the regiment was of the first order. Although allowed many privileges and exposed to numerous temptations, the men were remarkable for general good behavior.

No complaints for marauding or other abuse of

private property were ever entered against them by the citizens of the surrounding country, nor for neglect of duty—by the railroad company or Government authorities.

Grave offences of any character rarely occurred, and very few punishments were inflicted. After the regiment had left the Relay House, the B. & O. R. R. Company, and the citizens of that vicinity, petitioned to the War Department to have it returned, to perform garrison duty, for reasons above given.

The drilling of the regiment was principally conducted by Lieut. Colonel McClennan, whose successful efforts soon rendered the military appearance of the command, under arms, very creditable. In order that all the companies might participate and become proficient in the "school of the battalion," those stationed at distant points were occasionally ordered to the camp at Relay House, while those previously in camp would be sent out as detachments to replace them.

The protection of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road being our principal duty, it was decided to place detached garrisons at suitable points along its route ; and in obedience to orders from Department Head Quarters, four companies were detailed for that purpose. Company A was stationed at

Jessop's Cut, or Hooversville, Company C at Dorsey's Switch, Company E at Hanover Switch, and Company D at Elk Ridge Landing,—all stations on the Washington branch. The railroad was constantly guarded and patrolled, in order to prevent mischief by secession sympathizers, or any interruption of travel, which might serve to embarrass the Government in its efforts to suppress the rebellion.

The stone railroad bridge known as the "Washington Viaduct," spans the Patapsco River at Relay House, and is a most valuable, handsome, and substantial structure. "Fort Dix," a small earth-work, mounting six or seven guns, commands all the approaches to it, and Company G was the first garrison detailed from the regiment to occupy it. Company B was sent to guard Elliott's Mills, and a detachment of Company I to Elysville, both manufacturing places on the main stem of the railroad. After the disposition of troops above described had taken place, four companies remained at Relay House, viz, F, H, I and K.

The relative positions of the several companies were, however, periodically changed, to enable all to have equal participation in regimental drills, as heretofore stated.

At the time of the battle of Antietam the Relay House was the scene of great activity, considering the strength of the force there stationed, which at that time consisted of the 118th New York Vol. Infantry, the 138th Pa. Vols. and Battery B, 5th New York Light Artillery.

The advance of the rebels having penetrated the State, the Marylanders began to be alarmed, the rolling stock of the railroad began to roll eastward, and the Post Commander proceeded to make preparations for the emergencies of war. The armament of Battery B, as well as that of Fort Dix, was placed in warlike position; pickets were posted on all the roads approaching Baltimore, and everybody was on the *qui vive*.

The 17th day of September, 1862, witnessed the great battle of Antietam: the invading foe was repelled and forced to retreat across the Potomac, and the loyal States were saved from his depredations by the gallant soldiers of the Army of the Potomac.

The emergency having passed, the military situation at Relay House again relaxed into quietness, and the troops, except the 138th Regiment, were soon after ordered to other points for service.



## CHAPTER III.

### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS—THE INVASION OF '63.

The strength of the regiment, at the date of the first monthly report made in September, 1862, was as follows:—

For duty,	-	36 officers and 772 enlisted men.		
On extra duty,	-	-	3	“ “
Present, sick,	-	-	43	“ “
Absent, “	-	-	2	“ “
				<hr/>
Total, -	36 officers and	820	“	“
Aggregate,	-	856		

The Medical Department, during the first few months' service, was ably conducted by Doctor Charles E. Cady, of Philadelphia, assisted by Dr. Thomas C. Thornton, of Lewisburg.

The extensive prevalence of camp fever at that season kept the officers and attaches of the Department almost constantly employed; and great credit is due them for their care and vigilance, and for the amplitude and completeness of the Hospital arrangements.

In November, 1862, Dr. Curtis P. Herrington,

of Ashland, Pa., was promoted from Asst. Surgeon, 48th P. V., to Surgeon, and assigned with that rank to the 138th P. V. He was very successful in his treatment, and became a very popular officer.

The necessary supplies of food and clothing were furnished by Lieut. Edward B. Moore, who performed the double duties of Post Commissary of Subsistence and Regimental Quarter Master. His superior energy and ability enabled him to overcome the difficulties of his position and to do justice to his regiment.

Colonel Charles L. K. Sumwalt's military career was destined to be inglorious. He proved to be a wolf arrayed in sheep's clothing. At first he announced his intention to observe the strictest discipline, and establish for his command a good moral reputation. He was a very talented man, and having had some experience as a Minister of the Gospel, would occasionally preach, in the absence of the Chaplain, and he was always attentively listened to by an admiring audience.

But his habits of pretended righteousness were short lived. He removed his Head Quarters to the hotel at Relay House, and from that time forward "rode a high horse." He became addict-

ed to drunkenness, and lost to all sense of shame, honor or manly dignity.

His course of deportment became so disgraceful that charges were preferred against him—the Colonel was summoned as a criminal before a military court, found guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, and prejudicial to good order and military discipline, &c., and on the 30th of March, 1863, was “dismissed the military service of the United States.”

The following additional promotions of officers occurred, which have not been previously given :—

Lieut. Col. M. R. McClennan to Colonel, May 2, 1863, vice *Sumwalt*, dismissed.

1st Sergt. J. C. Leivelsberger to 2d Lieut., Co. B, vice McKnight, resigned, Dec. 15, 1862.

2d Lieut. John A. Gump to 1st Lieut. Co. D, vice Baughman, killed while attempting to arrest a deserter, in Bedford county, Pa.

1st Sergt. Oliver Horton to 2d Lieut., vice Gump, promoted, Nov. 13, 1862.

1st Lieut. John W. Feight to Captain Co. F.

1st Sergt. Chas. P. McLaughlin to 1st Lieut.

1st Sergt. Martin S. Bortz to 2d Lieut.—to fill vacancies, January 1st, 1863.

2d Lieut. Jonathan P. Iredell to 1st Lieut. Co. K, vice Bertolet, resigned.

1st Sergt. Abram H. Kline to 2d Lieut., vice Iredell, promoted, Jan. 23, 1863.

Rev. James W. Curry, of Bedford Co., Pa., was elected and commissioned Chaplain, April 5, 1863, vice Porter, resigned.

The service rendered the Government at Relay House, Md., and vicinity, although not of a nature to involve much personal danger and hardship, like that of the field, was of vast importance. The most valuable of all the railroad arteries upon which the Union armies depended for supplies was successfully guarded at vital points. Deserters and stragglers from the Federal army, as well as secession aiders and rebel renegades, were arrested and committed to justice.

The regiment, with detachments stationed as heretofore explained, remained here during the winter of 1862--3 and the subsequent spring, no events, except those of a very trivial character, occurring.

In the month of June, 1863, the clouds of war were unusually dark. The battles of Fredericks-

burg and Chancellorsville had been fought without any decisive advantages to the Union forces. In fact the result had been rather unfavorable to our arms, on both occasions. The two contending armies had scarcely recovered from the shock of their last combat, when the rebel commander essayed to penetrate the loyal States, and his traitorous columns were in motion northward on a tour of invasion. The North was everywhere in active preparation for the worst. The principal cities were being fortified, and military forces organized. More important than that, an army of loyal veterans, with brave hearts and determined spirits, was marching to the rescue.

Such troops performing garrison duty as could be spared from their stations, were ordered to unprotected points, and on the 16th of June, the 138th Regiment abandoned the Relay House and its associations for active service, and proceeded to Harper's Ferry, with other troops belonging to the Middle Department.

Arriving there on the 17th, the regiment was assigned to Brig. Gen. Elliott's Brigade, and ordered to Maryland Heights. The forces at this point consisted of the troops who had fought Lee's army for three days at Winchester, under General Milroy (but were overpowered and compelled to

retreat), and garrison regiments from sundry places in Maryland and West Virginia.

Maj. Gen. Wm. H. French had chief command, with Gens. Kenly, Morris and Elliott as Brigadiers. The Heights were strongly fortified; heavy and light artillery was posted in advantageous positions; all trees within cannon range (before the entrenchments) were felled to the ground; strong picket lines established, and every possible precaution taken to insure the enemy a warm reception, should he again try the stronghold which he had once assaulted with success. The troops remained on the alert, working constantly to increase the strength of the position for two weeks, with rainy days disagreeably frequent. The attack, which was so confidently expected by those in authority, did not occur, however. The rebel army avoided it. With the aid of a field glass the enemy's bivouac fires, and the movements of his wagon trains in the valley below, could be plainly discerned from the signal station on the Heights.

On the 1st of July, after some previous preparations, Harper's Ferry was evacuated. All immoveable property was ordered to be rendered useless. Cannon were dismounted, ammunition and commissary stores blown up and burned,

camp equipage, &c., destroyed. Some property—artillery, forage, stores, &c.,—was loaded upon canal-boats, and sent to Washington *via* the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, escorted by Gen. Elliott's Brigade, which had been specially assigned to that duty. (With this exception, Gen. French's command marched to Frederick City.)

Both property and troops were loaded upon the boats, and the journey of sixty miles was completed, without encountering even guerrillas, on the 4th. In the afternoon the Brigade went into camp at Tenallytown and remained until the 6th, when it was ordered to Washington, and from there was transported by railroad to Frederick City, where it arrived on the night of the 7th. On the 8th the army of the Potomac was passing through the town, following up the success achieved at Gettysburg. Their appearance afforded ample evidence of the severity of their campaign. They were jaded and worn, but with the inspiration of victory, and with the hope of pushing the repelled invaders "to the wall," they moved cheerfully onward. The troops from Harper's Ferry were organized into a Division, and assigned to the 3d Army Corps, with Brig. Gen. Elliott as commander. Maj. Gen. French, by virtue of seniority, assumed command of the



Corps, in the absence of Maj. Gen. Sickles, who was severely wounded at Gettysburg. We then became a part of the glorious Army of the Potomac, and shared in its operations from that time forward. The march was continued in Western Maryland to Williamsport, where we arrived on the 14th, to find that the bird of our pursuit had flown, that the rebels had successfully crossed the Potomac, and were making traces rapidly homeward. A feeling of disappointment that the enemy escaped as an army was universally prevalent. The marches and battles that must follow in Virginia were apparent to the mind of every soldier, and the thought made the disappointment keener.

The course of the army was now changed. On the 15th we marched to Sharpsburg, from thence to Antietam, beyond which we encamped but a short distance. Here we visited the memorable battle-fields where our sister regiments (the 51st and 95th) had shown their devotion to their country, and earned unfading laurels.

On the 16th the march was continued to near Sandy Hook, and on the 17th, while other commands were crossing at different points, the 3d Corps crossed the Potomac at Harper's Ferry.

It was night, and after the passage of the river



had been effected, the 138th made its first lodgement on Virginia soil, by moonlight.

The Army of the Potomac continued to move southward just east of the Blue Ridge, while the enemy were moving in a parallel direction west of the mountains. A temporary halt was made by the 3d Corps at Upperville, on the 20th. The regiment, with others equally inexperienced in field service, had by this time become pretty well accustomed to fatigue, and the men endured the hard marching with the indifference of veterans. On the afternoon of July 22d the 138th was detailed for picket duty, and immediately afterward the Corps was unexpectedly ordered forward, certain rebel movements rendering it necessary.

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## CHAPTER IV.

### BATTLE OF WAPPING HEIGHTS, WARRENTON, RETREAT FROM CULPEPPER, &c.

The regiment was relieved from picket and resumed its place in the column, and on the night of the 22d July the troops halted at Piedmont Station, on the Manassas Gap railroad, having

marched but a short distance. At that place, by direction of the General commanding the Corps, the field officers of the regiment (Col. McClenan and Major May) were placed in arrest for alleged neglect of duty while on picket, and the command devolved upon Capt. John F. McCreary, Company B, the ranking officer present.

On the 23d the 3d Army Corps was pushed forward toward Manassas Gap, near which it arrived on the afternoon of that day, to find a rebel force in occupation of a strong position on Wapping Heights. The 2d Division was ordered forward, and a spirited engagement ensued. The rebels were posted behind stone walls on a high eminence, and offered stubborn resistance, but were finally dislodged by a gallant charge of the Excelsior Brigade, with the aid of other co-operating commands. The 3d Division did not become engaged, although under fire a considerable portion of the time, while lying in reserve.

No casualties were incurred by the 138th Regiment, and very few happened in the Brigade.

It was here that the men of the 138th first "smelled powder." The ominous screech of the destructive shell, the sharp whistle of the musket ball, the boom of cannon, the crash of musketry, and the shrieks of the wounded, were unfamiliar

sounds; and the sight of manœuvering troops in actual battle, and the dead and mangled strewn upon the field, was an unusual spectacle. Expressions of sympathy for the unfortunate, and admiration for the brave, would be occasionally heard from the ranks, and remarks such as, "Why don't they send us over there to help, I wonder?"—"I wish we could get a crack at 'em"—"The Colonel ought to have command now," &c., would break out promiscuously.

The men were eager and impatient, but were not called upon to use the musket, so carefully loaded and capped, in anticipation of "the first battle." The enemy was driven, but night coming on the pursuit was abandoned, and the troops bivouaced on the Heights for the night.

The morning of the 24th demonstrated the fact that the rebels had made good use of their powers of retrograde locomotion.

Lee had evidently contemplated a passage of his army through Manassas Gap, but foiled by the timely arrival of our Corps he retired and pushed on down the valley, west of the Blue Ridge, to avoid the disagreeable proximity of Meade's army.

The 3d Corps then countermarched to Piedmont, and went into camp that P. M., shortly after

dark. The movement was rapid, the heat intense, the haversacks were empty, and as a consequence the troops were tired and hungry. A hasty issue of rations was made, and before seeking rest we refreshed our appetites with "coffee and tack" in moderate but delicious proportions. On the 25th the march was resumed, and on Sunday, July 26th the army encamped in the vicinity of Warrenton, a small town of large importance in Virginia estimation. On the 29th the field officers arrested on the 22d were restored to duty upon the following application made at Wapping Heights, 23d ult. :—

HEAD QUARTERS 138TH P. V., }  
 July 23, 1863. }

*Colonel* :—Having been notified by Colonel B. F. Smith, 126th O. V. I. Corps, Officer of the Day, 22d inst., that the Major Gen. Commanding the Corps, had ordered the arrest of the field officers of this Regiment for neglect of duty, and under the belief that the order was based upon misunderstanding, I respectfully submit the following explanation: On the 22d inst. my command was detailed for picket duty, and I had just succeeded in posting the outer picket, when I received a written order from Col. J. W. Keifer, commanding the Brigade to which my Regiment is attached, to hold my command in readiness to join the advancing column at a moment's notice. I directed the several companies to prepare for the movement, but not to quit their posts.

The 126th O. V. I., having just been relieved by me, the men of that regiment were scattered along the road unequipped and in careless order, awaiting the arrival of their Brigade, which no doubt led the General to infer that they were men of my Regiment, and neglecting their duty as pickets.

I have learned that he did make inquiry as to what regiment was on picket, and was informed by some of the unequipped men, "the 138th, Pa."

Considering that a battle is imminent, and that the Regiment is without field officers, I respectfully ask that Major May and myself be restored to duty.

Your obedient servant,

M. R. McCLENNAN, *Colonel*.

Lieut. Col. O. H. HART, A. A. G. 3d A. C.

The paper was endorsed as follows:—

HD. QRS. 2D BRIG., 3D DIV., 3D A. C., }  
July 23, 1863. }

Respectfully forwarded. I approve heartily and earnestly the within request. Col. McCleNNan has a large regiment of men, and they very much need his services to discipline and command them. For the short time that I have known him, Col. McCleNNan has been an earnest and devoted officer to his duties, as far as my own observation extended.

J. WARREN KEIFER, *Col. Com'g*.

HD. QRS. 3D DIV., 3D A. C., }  
July 24, 1863. }

Respectfully forwarded. I recommend that Col. McCleNNan and Major May be released, or their arrest suspended.

W. L. ELLIOTT, *Brig. Gen. U. S. V.*

HEAD QUARTERS 3D A. C., }  
 July 29, 1863. }

Respectfully returned. The officers in arrest will be released.

By command of Maj. Gen. French.

W. F. A. TORBERT, A. A. A. G.

The 3d Corps remained at Warrenton until August 1st, when it marched to a place near the Rappahannock River, known as "Fanny Lee's farm," and there established a temporary summer camp.

The 138th was afterwards located at Fox's Ford, on the above-mentioned river, where it performed outpost duty. Drills and other exercises were also practised. In this position we occupied a pleasant camp until September 15th, when the Corps was ordered to march to Culpepper C. H., where it arrived on the following day and encamped.

The army remained here in comparative quiet, no engagement ensuing—except slight skirmishing between the opposing pickets on the Rapidan—until the 10th of October, when the troops were ordered to be in readiness to move at short notice, and the trains to move to the rear at once. The enemy was making mysterious movements. The army of the Potomac had been depleted by the 11th and 12th Corps being sent to the South-

west, and General Lee, taking advantage of what he probably thought to be our weakness, undertook to march around our right flank, get between us and the Capital, and thereby effect the destruction of Meade's army. But our ever watchful General discovered the enemy's stealthy movements and, as the best possible measure to prevent his success, ordered the memorable retreat from Culpepper. On the 11th the several corps were moving northward, and about 9 p. m. that date our regiment was crossing the Rappahannock at Freeman's Ford. Only those who have experienced it know how disagreeable in the extreme is the fording of a river, especially in darkness.

On this occasion a wagon train was hurrying through, and the passage of the troops thereby much embarrassed. The river was perhaps forty or fifty yards wide, and at the ford was about three feet deep. The bottom was rough and stony, and the place of egress, a narrow road cut in the bank, very steep and slippery with mud. The reader can imagine himself in the position of the soldier, equipped in heavy marching order, plunge into three feet of water on an October night, struggle through a Virginia river, liable to be tramped upon by awkward mules, or crushed by



heavy army wagons, amid the voices of commanding officers and boisterous soldiers, the curses of teamsters, and the snorting of animals, and upon reaching the opposite bank find his troubles only begun, the drippings of thousands having made it almost impassable. How mortifying to the feelings when, having successfully waded the river with musket and cartridge box kept dry, in the attempt to gain a dry footing he is precipitated in the mire, and perhaps sliding unwillingly toward the water. Then a more fortunate comrade extends his musket and kindly, though roughly, delivers him from his uncomfortable situation, and he hurries on to resume his place in the column.

The troops are halted, arms stacked, and orders given to make themselves comfortable for the night. Comfortable? with wet limbs and wet clothes, shoes half full of mud and sand, it would seem impossible to improve their condition in the dampness of night. But the sharp sound of a hundred industrious hatchets, and the buzzing of contented voices, indicate the soldier's enterprise and power of endurance. Soon innumerable camp fires spring into existence, and groups gather around them. After the coffee is cooked and the frugal supper swallowed, the scene presented



is of great interest. Each fire, with its surroundings, is a picture worthy of an artist. Men are seen standing in a half nude condition, holding their wet garments to dry with the utmost patience. Some are "lettin' 'em dry" on their persons, giving each part an equal share of the heat by an occasional shifting of the body, and others, who lack the necessary energy and patience, are found prostrate upon the ground, near *somebody else's* fire, rolled up in their blankets, dirty and wet, just as they came from the river.

After the shoes and stockings are prepared for the next march, the gum blanket is dried and spread upon the ground for the reception of the tired owner. The voices around the fires, lately discussing the prospects of to-morrow, wondering "why they don't lay pontoons across such places," and what "old Bobby Lee is trying to get at now," &c., die away into quietness, the tattoo is sounded, and the troops are soundly sleeping.

The 12th of October came, but no movement of the 3d Corps took place, except a short march to a better camping place. That evening after tents had been pitched and preparations made for a stay over night, an order was received detailing the regiment as a guard to the trains of the Corps. Early on the morning of the 13th,

the trains moved out of "park" and the regiment was divided, a portion being assigned to the protection of the ammunition train, and the remainder to the ambulances of the Corps.

The enemy crossed the Rappahannock near Sulphur Springs on this day, and pursued a course parallel with that of ours. The 1st Division, 3d A. C., encountered a force of rebels at Auburn, about 3 p. m., and there was a brisk skirmish within sight of the road upon which the trains were moving. The enemy was repulsed, but to insure the safety of the trains, which were in constant jeopardy on account of his nearness, the rate of speed was ordered to be quickened.

The march was continued until midnight, when a halt was made at Greenwich, a small village about twenty-five miles from the point from which we had started in the morning, and men and animals had rest. The trials of a forced march, especially with a train of wagons, tax heavily on the system. The regular intervals of rest which occur upon an ordinary, well regulated movement, and the welcome coffee and cracker repast are *non est*. The rate of travel is varied and governed by the condition of the roads, but generally both man and beast are urged to their utmost capacity. No rest, worthy of the name, is obtained,

except when obstacles are encountered, such as impassable creeks, &c., and the soldier must keep "jogging along" without intermission.

When a day's march is extended into the darkness of night, it becomes very irksome. The soldier, already tired and hungry, now gets almost overcome with drowsiness, when he suddenly hears the question of a comrade, "How far is it to G——?" answered by, "——— miles." He then summons new energy and moves along with more spirit. Miles are passed over, but the camp-fires of the "advance" are not yet visible.

The soldier trudges onward, becoming almost insensible to the reality of his position, and begins to feel more like a machine performing its mechanical duties, than a human being with all the impulses and endowments of nature.

The character of the march to Greenwich, Oct. 13th, 1863, and its effects upon those who participated in it, can be thus described.

The command was aroused early on the 14th, and proceeded to Centreville, encamping on the heights near that place in the afternoon.

The 2d Corps, which was bringing up the rear that day, collided with a column of the enemy's forces at Bristow Station and had quite a severe engagement, in which the rebels were worsted by

the sagacity of Major Gen. Warren and the gallantry of his command. Centreville heights seemed to be the objective point of both armies. Gen. Lee saw and endeavored to gain the advantages of the position; Gen. Meade realized the importance of preventing him from the same, and in doing so he was happily successful. The carefully laid plans of the enemy being foiled, he again retired toward the Rappahannock, and his "on to Washington movement" thus ended.

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## CHAPTER V.

### THE ADVANCE TO THE RAPPAHANNOCK, BATTLE OF BRANDY STATION, &C.

Gen. Lee's retreat was closely followed by a prompt advance of the Army of the Potomac, which commenced about the 19th of October. The 3d Corps reached Gainesville on the following day, and on the 21st moved to Catlett's Station. On the 23d the regiment was relieved from guard duty with the Corps trains and rejoined its proper Brigade, which was ordered to proceed to and occupy Bristow Station, on the Orange and Alexandria railroad. On Sunday, October 25th,

the Brigade was relieved by troops of the 1st Army Corps, and returned to Catlett's Station.

It was ordered to Bealton Station on the 28th, where it relieved the 3d Brigade of the same Division, then acting as a support to the cavalry outposts of the army. The entire Corps soon after advanced to this point and remained in camp until the Orange & Alexandria railroad, destroyed by the enemy on his line of retreat; was repaired and put in complete order for the transportation of the supplies, &c., necessary for the efficiency of the army.

The rebels had most effectually destroyed the railroad, and evidently thought to thereby retard our movements for months; the rails were heated and twisted in all sorts of shapes, and every cross-tie was torn up and consumed by fire. But the ample resources of the Government overcame all these difficulties, and in a few days the entire breach of about thirty miles was reconstructed of new material. On the 7th of November a general advance of the army was ordered and the camps near Bealton were evacuated. The 3d Corps marched to Kelly's Ford, on the Rappahannock, and effected a crossing, but not without meeting some resistance. Birney's (1st) Division drove the enemy from the ford, with slight loss,

and captured a number of prisoners, after which the remainder of the command crossed the river, and bivouaced for the night a short distance beyond. On the same day the 6th Corps forced a passage of the river at Rappahannock Station, capturing a number of guns and a batch of prisoners.

On the 8th the march was resumed toward Brandy Station. About two and half miles from that place, on the line of the Orange & Alexandria railroad, the advance encountered the rebels' rear guard in considerable force, principally cavalry with horse artillery. After a short halt, disposition was made of the troops composing the 2d Brigade, 3d Division, 3d A. C., which held the van that morning, to advance upon and drive the enemy from a hill which he occupied with guns in position.

The 138th Pa. and the 110th Ohio Regiments were advanced and deployed, the former to the left and the latter to the right of the railroad, facing south, and supported respectively by the 122d Ohio and 6th Maryland Regiments. The skirmish line consisted of Berdan's famous Sharpshooters, Company A, 138th P. V., commanded by Captain C. Y. Fisher, and a company of the 110th Ohio Vols. The line and its supports were

ordered forward about 1 p. m., and the 138th Regiment soon came under the fire of the enemy's artillery, which was very severe and seemingly very accurate. Shells whizzed over our heads and through our ranks, tore up the turf before and behind us; fragments of shrapnel hummed about our ears; and solid shot bounded over and around us.

Early in the engagement a shell struck and exploded in the ranks near the centre of the regiment, and carried to the ground several files from the line of battle. Those seriously injured by it were Capt. L. C. Andress, Co. H, and his 1st Sergeant, Abraham G. Rapp. The missile burst as it struck the former, fearfully mangling his hip and thigh, and carrying off the left arm of the latter.

The Captain's sword was shivered to atoms. A piece struck Sergt. Rapp on the left thigh, causing a painful bruise, and lodged in his pocket book, where it was discovered. The brave men above named were the first of our regiment to fall in battle—the first to be stricken down in the gallant performance of their duty.

The line was pushed onward as rapidly as possible, the hill was carried, and the rebels barely escaped with their artillery. The eight days ra-



tions required (at that time) to be carried on the persons of the soldiers, prevented the rapid movement of troops which is so essential to the accomplishment of important ends in engaging or pursuing an enemy. This hindrance made the attempt to capture the rebel guns—which had been playing upon our brigade—a failure.

The pursuit was continued to a short distance south of Brandy Station, where the rebels again took up position and shelled our advance; but a cavalry force being sent on their flank, they soon evacuated and fled with the greatest possible haste. Meanwhile, the troops at the front were ordered to bivouac “until further orders,” and the remainder of the army was coming forward. The following is a correct copy of Col. McClenan’s official report of the engagement at Brandy Station:—

HEAD QUARTERS 138TH P.A. VOLS., }  
November 10, 1863. }

*Lieut.*:—In compliance with circular received this 10th inst., I have the honor to make the following report:—

On Saturday, 7th inst., at daylight, the regiment marched with this Brigade and Division, from camp four miles south of Warrenton Junction, to Kelley’s Ford, Va. There we rested on an eminence overlooking the Rappahannock river, while the 1st Division,



3d Corps, was effecting a crossing. At dusk we crossed the river by pontoons, and bivouaced on the field of the day's engagement.

At daylight Sunday morning, 8th inst., we marched to the Orange and Alexandria railroad, between the river and Brandy Station. Here the rebels were discovered in force, on an eminence about a mile and a half distant; and while other regiments were being manoeuvred my regiment was ordered in line of battle, in a skirt of pines, on the left of the railroad. Soon an advance was ordered, and, with one Company (A) deployed as skirmishers, the regiment advanced steadily in line of battle, its right resting on or near the railroad, over a plain commanded by the enemy's artillery. Whilst the regiment was ascending a little knoll, the enemy opened with shrapnel, shell and solid shot, and kept up a rapid and continuous fire. My regiment never faltered, but advanced with battle-line unbroken and almost perfect. The rebel battery was again brought to bear upon us, and the range I feared would encourage "grape and cannister;" so, with a view to shelter my men, and tor each the battery, if possible, I changed our movement by the "right flank," crossed the railroad and moved as rapidly as possible, under cover of a hill, to where the battery was planted; but owing to the heavy knapsacks, &c., of the men, I was unable to move quickly enough to capture the guns of the enemy. We afterwards advanced and drove the enemy a short distance beyond Brandy Station, where we were again shelled, but with no serious effect. Here our active operations temporarily ended, and since we have been encamped in close proximity to the extent

of our advance on the 8th inst. The following casualties occurred in my command:—

WOUNDED.

Capt. L. C. Andress, Co. H, mortally.  
 Capt. Simon Dickerhoof, Co. E, slightly.  
 1st Sergeant A. G. Rapp, Co. H, seriously.  
 Private Charles Heaton, Co. H, slightly.  
 “ Joseph Warford, Co. H, “  
 “ Marpold Davis, Co. C, “  
 “ Wm. Fullerton, Co. C, “

Total, 7.

Very respectfully,

Your obdt. svt.,

M. R. McCLENNAN,

*Col. Commanding.*

Lieut. Col. W. A. HATHAWAY, A. A. A. G. 2d  
 Brigade, 3d Div., 3d A. C.

An extract from the Brigade commander's report reads as follows, and furnishes evidence of the good behavior of the troops engaged:—

HD. QRS. 2D BRIG., 3D DIV., 3D A. C., }  
 November 10, 1863. }

\* \* \* \* \*

Officers and men were prompt in obeying orders. The manner in which they performed the services required of them fully warrants me in saying, that when more important and dangerous duties are assigned them, they will cheerfully and willingly perform them. Special commendation is due Col. M. R. McClennan and his regiment for their splendid conduct on the

8th instant. The regiment was on that day engaged for the first time. Capt. L. C. Andress, who fell mortally wounded, was a brave and accomplished soldier. His loss is deeply regretted by all who knew him.

\* \* \* \* \*

J. WARREN KEIFER,  
*Col. Comd'g Brigade.*

The enemy, prior to our advance on the 7th, apparently had little belief that an offensive movement would be inaugurated by our forces during that season, and had winter quarters in process of construction—which were hastily but no doubt reluctantly abandoned to Yankee occupation. The Army of the Potomac established camps in the vicinity of Brandy Station and Culpepper Court House, about the 10th of November, and it was thought the winter would be spent in that position; but still another campaign was being planned, another battle was to be fought, and another effort made to defeat the still defiant Army of Northern Virginia, before active operations in the year 1863 were permanently terminated.

## CHAPTER VI.

### THE MINE RUN CAMPAIGN.

The army remained near Brandy Station, in comparative quiet, until the 23d of November, when orders were issued requiring the troops to be in readiness for a general movement, to commence on the following day; but it proved stormy and unfavorable, and the already bad roads of Virginia were rendered impassable. The order for the march was then temporarily revoked, but afterwards re-issued to take effect on the 26th. On the morning of the latter day, at dawn, the innumerable white tents which had marked our camping-places had disappeared, and columns of blue-clad soldiery were moving again to the front.

The weather, as may be readily judged, was at this time quite wintry, and it was with no great degree of comfort that we trudged towards the Rapidan that November day, with a winter campaign before us, and with disagreeable recollections of the cold nights we had passed, during the few previous weeks, at Brandy Station. A pontoon bridge train had been seen, the day before,

moving towards the river, and we well knew that a crossing was contemplated. It was also apparent to all that we must have "rough times," whether the campaign should result in success or failure, and that we might as well "make the best of it."

The only consolation the soldier had under such circumstances, was to believe that the enemy would be speedily met and defeated—the rebellion suppressed before the coming Christmas—to imagine that the war would actually be ended by this, the last battle—and to build up in imagination sundry air-castles to adorn his future. And when the question of probable defeat loomed up before his hopeful vision, his secondary thought of comfort was that, in sharing the hardships and consequences of such a movement he had at least the proud consciousness of duty performed.

It was rumored that Lee's army, then consisting of Ewell's and Hill's Corps, was divided; that it was designed by General Meade to prevent a junction being effected, and to defeat them in detail.

We therefore had high hopes of success when we crossed the Rapidan that p. m. The 3d Corps passed the river at Jacob's Ford, two miles above Germania Mills, and moved forward toward some

point which was ordered to be reached yet that evening.

The 2d Division, commanded by Brig. General Henry Prince, held the advance, followed by the 3d Division, commanded by Brig. General Joseph B. Carr, which in turn was succeeded by the 1st Division, Major General Birney commanding. The movement continued through a dense woods, on a narrow country road, until after dark, when frequent and irregular halts began to occur, which foreshadowed that something was wrong. Staff officers and couriers began to pass to and from the rear, and finally the column was ordered to counter-march towards the river.

It soon became generally circulated that the leading General had selected the wrong route, and hence the backward movement. The distance retraced was about two miles in extent, and after the tedious march was completed we found ourselves in bivouac near the banks of the river.

Early on the morning of Friday, November 27th, the troops were preparing to resume the march. This portion of the country had not been previously visited by Union troops in any force, and the fences were numerous and in good repair; consequently there was an abundance of rails, which made excellent fires to cook our coffee, and

drive the chills and frost of the night from the system.

When the bugle sounded the advance, the column moved forward, but had proceeded but a few miles, when "Bing! Bang! Whang!" the introductory sounds of an opening skirmish, broke upon the stillness of the morning with the forcible announcement that the enemy had been discovered. A running fight then occurred, in which the enemy's skirmishers were steadily driven for hours, by the gallant 2d Division. Shortly after noon the musketry became more severe, and Gen. Prince was hotly engaged. The wounded were being carried to the rear in large numbers, staff officers were hurrying to and fro, and troops were being moved up and massed ready for any arising emergency. The 3d Division arrived at the scene of conflict just as the rebels were making an assault on the 2d Division, and in time to prevent its success. Gen. Carr at once deployed his Division, in two lines of battle, extending to the left of Gen. Prince's command. The enemy continued to extend his front, and to confront him it was necessary to move the supports of the first line still to the left, making practically but a single line of battle of the entire 3d Division. During this series of manœuvres the 138th Pa.



was assigned a position on the extreme left of Col. Keifer's Brigade, in an open field, and directly on the left flank of the Corps. Our formation into line of battle had been scarcely completed, when the rebels made a determined attack upon our Brigade front. The 6th Maryland Regiment, holding a position to the right and in advance of our regiment, manifested a temporary disposition to give way before the suddenness and force of the enemy; and to their support Col. McClellan promptly moved his command. It was not, however, needed, for after the first shock "the gallant little Sixth" (as it was afterwards known by us) rallied, and, encouraged by its most excellent Colonel, John W. Horn, bravely held its ground and repulsed the enemy, who, in largely superior numbers, was endeavoring to break our lines. Our regiment was then ordered to "lie down" and await the next rebel movement. In the meantime Smith's (3d) Brigade was being manœuvred with a view to strike the enemy's right flank, but this was without success, and it was compelled to retire. Thus encouraged the rebels again sallied forth, and this time in our immediate front. On they came in formidable grey columns, waving their red battle-flags in traitorous defiance, and screeching and yelling like demons.



“Get ready, men!” commanded Colonel McClennan, and the “click” of five hundred muskets gave notice that it was done. Then burst forth in thundering tones five hundred iron throats, and “buck and ball” were hurled against the advancing enemy with telling effect. His lines wavered, hesitated and finally halted, but the storm of battle did not abate. The opposing lines became wrapt in one dense sheet of musketry, and from left to right the terrible crash of arms resounded.

The sound of cannon could be heard from the front of the 2d Division, the position being accessible to artillery in that one place only, on account of the density of the woods in our rear. The noise of this battle was indeed terrific. Although but a single Corps of infantry was engaged on our side, every portion of it was in fierce conflict.

In front of the regiment the destructive effects of the fire of the “old smooth-bores” could be plainly discovered. Rebel riders dropped from their horses, and red battle-flags frequently fell to the earth. The enemy was not in such an exposed position as we were, being somewhat protected by fences, stacks of hay and old farm out-buildings. Their fire was severe. Minie balls in all their variety of sounds came in dangerous

profusion and nearness to our ranks. Their sharp "tsip" when swiftly passing, their curious hum when spent in force and whirling through the air, and their deadly sound when a skull or breast is pierced, or a limb shattered, were well calculated to test the nerves and to excite every sensation of fear which may exist in a man's system. Our first battle (Brandy Station) had given us the harsh experience of artillery fire, and in this we became fully acquainted with a musketry conflict—with its bloody charges and repulses, the staggering effect of its volleys, and the destructiveness of its sharp-shooting.

About 4 P. M. the rebels again made a forward demonstration and the fighting grew fiercer. Our left flank was somewhat unnecessarily exposed to the enemy's fire, and a staff officer brought directions to withdraw that portion of the line a short distance under cover of a ridge.

While this was being done some thoughtless soldiers presumptuously repeated the command to "fall back!" which being taken up by others, the order for a retrograde movement spread to the entire line and other portions of the Brigade, occasioning considerable confusion. The noise of discharging fire-arms, &c., prevented the orders of the Colonel being heard, and the retreat had ex-

tended perhaps one hundred yards before it was understood that it was unauthorized. The lines were then halted and reformed, and the regiment quickly returned to its former position, and resumed firing. Shortly afterwards Col. McClellan, while moving from the left to the right of the regiment, giving directions and encouraging his men, fell, pierced by a Minie ball through the foot, and was taken from the field. Captain Chas. Y. Fisher received a dangerous wound, shattering his arm above the elbow, and was compelled to abandon the command of Company A, which he had so nobly exercised. Adjutant J. W. Cress was also disabled by a musket ball, and left the field. Brave men were being stricken down from the ranks of every company: some falling never to rise again; others limping to the rear with crippled limbs dangling, and the most acute suffering depicted upon their countenances; others, more seriously maimed, were dragging themselves or being dragged from the battle-line; while others again, too severely injured to be removed, were lying where they fell, bleeding, suffering, and dying. The fall of Col. McClellan was a topic of much anxiety in the ranks, because of his gallant conduct, and the confidence reposed in him by the regiment. Major Lewis A. May, however,

promptly assumed command, and with the aid of Capt. George W. Guss, Co. C, who was particularly zealous in the performance of his duties, preserved the order of the regiment.

The battle still raged. Men were firing with desperate earnestness, standing, kneeling, and reclining in every conceivable position ; some with hats off and faces begrimmed with powder ; some cool, some excited, some joking and laughing, and others yelling and swearing like madmen.

On the right, Maj. General French, riding his famous sorrel near the single battery before alluded to, was watching with anxiety the progress of the strife. With eyes snapping fiercely (for which he was peculiarly noted), he would occasionally ejaculate to the artillery officer ; " Now then, double shot 'em ! double shot 'em !" Repeated charges were made by the enemy, and as often repulsed by the energy and promptness with which they were met.

At dark, on account of the exhaustion of ammunition, our regiment, with others, was withdrawn and replaced by troops belonging to Birney's Division, which had not been so closely engaged. While this was being done the rebels in our front brought forward a battery and shelled the woods through which we were passing, inflicting a num-

ber of additional casualties, and giving us an awful illustration of "night warfare." During the night the enemy retired to a line of fortifications on Mine Run, and our forces were quickly assembled preparatory to a new movement. Such was the character of the Battle of "Locust Grove," called by the rebels "Paine's Farm," which was fought in Orange County, Virginia, November 27, 1863, and in which the 3d Army Corps, commanded by Major General French, encountered and successfully held in check Ewell's rebel Corps, which was vastly superior in numbers, constituting at the time one-half of Lee's army. The following casualties were incurred by the 138th, as shown by official records:—

#### COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

WOUNDED.—Col. M. R. McClennan, severely; Capt. Charles Y. Fisher, Company A, severely; Adjutant Jacob W. Cress, slightly. Total, 3.

#### ENLISTED MEN—KILLED.

Pvt. John F. Lookenbill, Co. B.	Pvt. Jonas Eppleman, Co. G.
" Charles F. Ogden, "	" Charles Slagle, "
" Philip Wentz, Co. D.	" John Barrell, Co. H.
" Geo. W. Robb, Co. F.	Total, 7.

#### WOUNDED.

Pvt. Crary Stewart, Co. A.	Pvt. Adam Hersh, Co. A.
" Geo. W. Evans, "	" Wm. A. Hennig, Co. B.
" James W. Davis, "	" Robert Johnson, "
" James Noblit, "	" Levi Beck, "
" David R. Kriebel, "	" John T. Weikert, "

Pvt. Thomas O. Fallon, Co. B.	Pvt. Cornelius Crist, Co. G.
" Chas. Pennypacker, Co. C.	" Martin Fehl, "
1st Sergt. S. C. Stuckey, Co. D.	" Benjamin F. Heller, "
Pvt. John E. Lowery, "	" Amos Meals, "
" Daniel Hellman, "	Sergt. Jos. Godshall, Co. H.
" John Kennard, "	" Geo. H. Reese, Co. I.
" John A. Hoshard, "	Pvt. Joseph Holt, "
" Aaron Mock, "	" Benj. F. Roberts, "
" Matt. P. Taylor, "	" Peter Reinbolt, "
" Henry Speck, Co. E.	" John Cook, "
" Daniel Burket, "	" Isaac Bennett, "
Pvt. Daniel Correll, Co. E.	Corp. Elias Lewis, Co. K.
Sergt. Jacob F. Whip, Co. F.	Pvt. James Burks, "
Pvt. Jacob Smith, "	" Franklin Rhoads, "
" Eliakim Walkey, Co. G.	" Henry C. Moser, "
" Hiram D. Little, "	" J. B. Undercoffler "
	Total, 42..

MISSING.—Privates John T. Dicken, Co. D.; Samuel Ward, Co. E.; Reuben F. Crouthamel, Co. I. Total, 3.

#### RECAPITULATION.

Commissioned officers, wounded, -	-	-	3
Enlisted men, killed, -	-	-	7
" " wounded, -	-	-	42
" " missing, -	-	-	3

Total, 3 officers and 52 enlisted men. Aggregate, 55

On the 28th, amid a drenching rain, the army moved to Mine Run, a short distance beyond Yellow Tavern, where the rebels were found strongly entrenched in an excellent commanding position.

On the following day disposition of our forces was made, which presented the appearance of preparation for a grand assault. A council of war is said to have been held to discuss the subject;

and several prominent Generals opposed such a movement, one saying, "We can do it, but it will cost the Army of the Potomac 10,000 men."

It was reported that a decision had been made to attack the rebel works, and very probably it was true, judging by orders received and movements made. This vital matter was wisely reconsidered, and the project abandoned. General Meade then ordered a withdrawal of the several Corps across the Rapidan, to commence on the 1st of December, which course was prudent, humane, creditable, and the best possible measure to be adopted, under the circumstances, to preserve the safety and efficiency of the army, as shown by the following statements:—

1st. The enemy's strongly fortified position could only be approached by crossing the creek known as Mine Run, waist deep, and adjoining swamps, almost impenetrable, and moving over a rising plain commanded by artillery. An assault at this season, and in the face of these obstacles, would have resulted in a wholesale loss of life, which we could illy afford to sustain, if not in a disastrous repulse and a compelled retreat.

2d. It was winter, and the severity of the weather was scarcely endurable by the well, while



the suffering wounded at the field hospitals were perishing from cold and exposure.

3d. The army was at least two days' march from its depot of supplies, the rations were nearly consumed, and the roads almost impassable to the trains.

The river was recrossed on the night of the 1st by the troops, the pickets were withdrawn at 3 A. M. on the 2d, and before the enemy knew that the contemplated assault had given place to a retreat, the entire army was north of the Rapidan, and en route to Brandy Station.

After a tedious march over an exceedingly bad route, on the 3d, the old encampments were re-occupied, and the Mine Run Campaign, without any result of a decisive character, was concluded.

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## CHAPTER VII.

### A PEEP INTO WINTER QUARTERS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

It was now apparent that further military operations during the winter season were deemed inexpedient. The army was ordered to construct comfortable quarters, and general provisions were made for the welfare of the troops.



The 1st Corps and the cavalry were stationed at and near Culpepper Court House, the 2d, 3d and 6th in the vicinity of Brandy Station, and the 5th was assigned to guard duty on the Orange & Alexandria railroad north of the Rappahannock.

The huts erected and evacuated by the enemy (alluded to in a previous chapter), being appropriated to use, were the means of much assistance in the construction of our log encampments, which, by the middle of December, were completed and presented quite a comfortable appearance. The quarters were built in regular backwoodsman-cabin style.

The chimneys were usually made of wood (although a few were built of brick and stone procured from abandoned buildings) and, as well as the walls of the huts, were cemented with clay or common mud. The roofing generally consisted of ordinary shelter tents, but in some cases roughly split shingles were used, which of course rendered windows necessary, while in houses with canvass coverings (which readily admit light) they could easily be dispensed with. The huts were built of all styles and sizes, in accordance with the varying taste of the troops and their commanders. The capacity of some would admit of a dozen occupants, while others would contain

but two, or not more than four. Although laid out in uniformity, properly drained and policed, the camps had a rough, uncouth appearance, and to the eye of the citizen visitor they resembled extensive settlements of gipseys, or "men of the forest."

With the readers' willingness we will enter some of these huts, to accomplish which it is only necessary to swing back a slab, suspended on leather hinges, or raise a gum blanket, hanging before a square aperture, which, in the absence of boards or other suitable material, at least excludes the light and serves the place of door. The character of the domestic scene awaiting us within depends entirely upon the disposition of the inmates.

In some huts, a nicely swept ground floor, rough walls neatly pasted over with illustrated and other newspapers, snug bunks with knapsacks and blankets carefully arranged thereon, meet the eye.

Brightly polished muskets and accoutrements are seen "in rack" in an appropriate corner; canteens, haversacks and cooking utensils, hanging in their particular places, grace the walls instead of pictures; and the occupants, if not on drill or other duty, will be seen in various positions. For

instance, by a cheerful fire-place, a party is reading a *Waverley*, or perhaps an *Inquirer* or *Baltimore American*; another is writing home thoughts of interest to his loved ones—while the remaining one, or ones (if any), are preparing a “square meal,” or, it may be, buried in the blissful thoughts of a soldier’s meditation. Upon visiting another, the contrast presented will give surprise. There will be seen a blazing fire, but perchance the occupants differently employed. The table is surrounded and a game of cards in progress. It matters not whether it is “euchre,” “all fours,” or “whist.” It is, maybe, not very interesting, the various remarks and expressions of the players may not be pleasing, and we look about for something more attractive. The bunk has not been arranged since morning and probably yet contains a sleepy individual who “don’t care whether school’s kept or not.” The wind whistling through crevices in the side wall, where the cement has dropped from between the logs, causes a shudder; and a few disagreeable puffs of smoke from the chimney, caused by its not being sufficiently high, add materially to the discomforts of the place.

After noticing the dirty condition of the floor, and seeing in one corner a promiscuous heap of

haversacks, utensils and provisions, it occasions no regrets to abandon the scene, and to withdraw to the enjoyment of the pure out-door air.

A peep into some of the officers' quarters may be interesting. If we confine our observations to the camp of the 138th it will be sufficient, and we may as well commence on the right.

The first one is found vacant, excepting the cook, who is busy (the Lieut. being out has probably gone to Head Quarters to hear the "latest chin"); but we can see at a glance that officers have more room and conveniences than private soldiers. The furniture consists of a rudely constructed table, a few camp stools, and a bed, under which is a box marked "Lieut. ——— 138th P. V." &c., and containing, no doubt, dainty and substantial provisions sent from home by kind hands. On a little shelf is seen a bottle of catsup, a box of matches and a few other trifling sundries; and on the table, beside a few tin cups and plates, is a box of smoking tobacco, also, an oyster can, which has evidently been but recently emptied. A sword and revolver hang on the wall. But let us call next door. We find this a curiously constructed cabin, apparently composed of several joined together, and in it we find a number of both officers and enlisted men "messing" together,

They are reading religious papers, writing, chatting and eating large *pound* apples, such as Bedford county boasts of. In the next, we find, under a shingle roof, three jolly fellows wearing the insignia of officers, and with them a number of men are engaged in conversation with evident interest. We will not disturb them, but a glance at the county newspapers on the table, one a *Gazette* and another an *Inquirer*, informs us that they hail from Bedford also. Now we arrive at a hut with a shed roof, and after clambering through a very narrow and limited passage, we find ourselves in, it must be, the wrong place, for we can only see the appurtenances of a cook-house, a frying-pan, a kettle, a coffee pot, some tin cans, one or two good sized boxes marked "By Adams' Express," &c. We are informed by an individual who seems to have charge of the establishment, and whose looks, manners and speech are those of a Dutchman, that he is the "boo-gler" and that the "officeres" are to be found next door. We proceed to the place indicated, and, after stooping very low and entering, we find ourselves in a very respectable *ranch*e and greeted by a courteous young gentleman wearing the bar of a 1st Lieutenant. Surveying the room, it is evident that it has been arranged with uncommon care. The

walls are nicely papered, and the floor is clean and tidy; on a comfortable looking couch a young man (probably a 2d Lieut., as the "straps" on the coat hanging by his bed-side would indicate,) is reclining, and asleep, too. Against one of the end walls are suspended two crossed swords and two revolvers, with two red silken sashes gracefully twined around them. Directly opposite is a pine wreath encircling the picture of some distinguished soldier.

Pictures, clipped from *Harper's Weekly* and *Frank Leslie's*, of great ships, famous officers of the army and navy, sanguinary battles, picturesque home scenes, &c., adorn the side walls profusely.

On the desk are some letters, some of the Lieutenant's manuscript broken off suddenly by our entrance, a copy of Shakespeare, a photographic album, a box of fine old "Lynchburg" and a meerechaum pipe.

After a satisfactory inspection and a pleasant chat we retire and move on to the next quarters, which offer the appearance of having been constructed with a great deal of labor, and of being still unfinished to a certain extent; but upon getting inside we find it quite nice and respectable; the inmates are numerous and quite merry in the



indulgence of some innocent games. Nothing unusual is to be seen here in the way of ornaments, except some empty bottles, labelled "Old Bourbon," on the shelf; and there being no inducement in the fact of their emptiness, we will leave the gay Lieutenant and visit his neighbor on the left. The first object meeting our gaze in this cabin, excepting a group of persons, is a copy of the *Doylestown Democrat* in the hands of a man called (by those present) "Frank," who is exceedingly *frank* in his way of talking and full of good Irish humor. Quite a spirited conversation is going on, in the course of which can be distinguished the names, "Lieut," "Bricky," "Joe," "Canby" and others, and not wishing to become involved we excuse ourselves and try the next. We get in a snug little box, of dimensions about 8 by 12, and find Captain ——— toiling over a difficult property return. Under the circumstances we will not be justified in staying; so, after a brief exchange of words—of greeting, information and advice—we retreat and knock at the side door of the next shanty. Here we find the Captain reading as usual, but upon our appearance he lays aside his paper—which happens to be the *Norristown Herald*—and entertains us with his usual courtesy. On inquiring after his Lieut. we

learn that he is "up about the Colonel's quarters."

The features of this building we find to be like most others, and we will not repeat a description. A peep at the adjoining hut gives us a sight of three officers, two asleep and the remaining one, the Captain, working at a *back* Ordnance account. We omit calling there, and pop unceremoniously into the "last in the row." Here the room is full and the inmates are uncommonly merry and good humored. One Lieut. is singing a Dutch song, another is playing checkers with a comrade, while the remainder of the crowd of "non-coms" and privates are chatting, laughing, humming and whistling. The profuse presence of newspapers gives the impression that there must be a considerable number of literary gentlemen in this company. Copies of *Forney's War Press*, *New York Ledgers*, *Gettysburg Stars* in any number, and other journals are "lying around loose."

But we have seen enough here; let us repair to Regimental Head Quarters, to the Adjutant's office for instance. There he is, playing checkers with the Hospital Steward; there, lounging on the bed, are those Lieutenants who were not *at home* when we were visiting their quarters, and they are talking too, much to the annoyance of the Sergeant Major, who is very busily engaged in



making up a "Monthly" or something of that sort. This office is nicely papered, generally well arranged, and contains a comfortable camp-stove. In the commanding officers' tent we find Captain George W. Guss, who has charge of the regiment now, owing to the absence of Col. McClennan on account of wounds, and the detail of Major May as a member of a General Court Martial. He is sitting by the warm fire-place, and alone, with the exception of a clerk who is engaged at the desk by the window. The office is very tidy and contains three beds well supplied with blankets, two valises, and a few camp chairs. Two swords and belts hang against the wall, which, with a few newspaper pictures, are the only ornaments. Now, let us go and see the Quarter Master. Yes, here he is, playing chess with a friend from another regiment, and laughing heartily when fortune favors him. The Commissary Sergeant, with a copy of Blackstone before him, is watching the progress of the chess game. The Q. M. Sergeant and the clerk are making up returns of clothing, camp equipage, &c. A few visitors, called "bummers" by the Quarter Master, are at present occupying the beds and spare seats. We must also notice that this room is very neat in appearance, and has a large storm-flag stretched across one end, dis-

playing its beautiful folds to careless advantage.

The reader has now, perhaps, had sufficient insight into Winter-quarters. The out-door scenes are the manœuvres of troops on drill, parade, &c., games of ball and other amusements, and the usual constant motion of mounted officers and orderlies, and endless trains of army wagons conveying supplies.

These views are intended for the closing part of the year 1863, and will now be abandoned for other subjects.

The only promotion to the rank of commissioned officer which occurred in the regiment during 1863—after its departure from the Relay House—was in the case of 1st Sergeant Samuel W. Cloward, Co. "C," to 1st Lieutenant of that company, *vice* William Neiman, discharged for disability, August 22d, 1863.

The strength of the regiment on the 31st of December, 1863, was

Present,	-	-	-	24	com'd officers.
"	-	-	-	579	enlisted men.
					<hr/>
Total,	-	-	-	603	
Absent,	-	-	-	10	com'd officers.
"	-	-	-	121	enlisted men,
					<hr/>
Total,	-	-	-	131	

Present and Absent,	34 com'd officers.
“ “ “	700 enlisted men.
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Aggregate,	734

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## CHAPTER VIII.

COL. M'CLENNAN'S RETURN, RE-EQUIPMENT OF THE REGIMENT, RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE ARMY, PREPARATIONS FOR A NEW CAMPAIGN.

March 13th, 1864, Colonel McClennan returned from his absence on account of wounds received Nov. 27th, 1863, and soon after resumed command. Upon his arrival in camp he was waited upon at his quarters and greeted by the entire regiment. He hobbled forth (for he was yet unable to walk unaided by crutches) and acknowledged this complimentary action of his comrades; expressed great pleasure in being allowed to return to the charge of his "good old regiment," and thanked its members for their manifestations of welcome and respect.

He soon recovered entirely from his injuries, and became fully able to perform all field and camp duties required of his position.

Originally, the regiment was provided with an

inferior lot of old Austrian muskets, which proved almost worthless, and were ordered to be replaced by arms of a more serviceable class.

They were accordingly turned in and in their stead the U. S. smooth-bore muskets, calibre 69, were issued at the Relay House, Md., during the fall of 1862. These arms were borne by the regiment until the spring of 1864, and although they were considered very efficient in some respects, yet it was deemed advisable to make application for and if possible to procure muskets of a still better description. Col. McClennan therefore forwarded a communication through the proper military channel, asking for an exchange of arms, for the rifled musket of the Springfield pattern, which was approved and his request granted.

The new arms were issued March 18th, 1864, and the old ones were collected and turned in immediately after. The Springfields were mostly second-hand, but were furnished in good order and found to be much superior to the old "smooth-bores" for general use. The latter, although capable of doing much damage at short range, and much good service in repelling the charge of an enemy, were objectionable on account of their utter inefficiency on the skirmish line. That fault is a serious one, for all regiments are liable to be

placed on such duty, and, upon that line, everything connected with the safety and success of an army almost entirely depends.

On the 24th of March an order was published to the army consolidating the five Corps composing the Army of the Potomac into three, to be known as the 2d, 5th and 6th, and commanded respectively by Major Generals Hancock, Warren and Sedgwick. The 1st and 3d Corps were discontinued, the former being organized and assigned as a Division to the 5th Corps; and the 1st and 2d Divisions of the latter transferred to the 2d Corps, while the 3d Division, 3d Corps, was transferred bodily to "Sedgwick's' old 6th," with the same number and without change of organization, excepting the consolidation of its three Brigades into two. This dissolution of old military connexions was not received at first by the army with universal satisfaction, but it was really advantageous to the military service in many important respects. Soldiers were not satisfied that their old Corps and Divisions should be broken up, and their numbers and badges of distinction, made honorable by arduous and faithful services, be discarded and forgotten; and others again, with self-pride and prejudice, were not willing that troops from another command

should join theirs, and share their name, their glory, and their honor.

Thus when we (the 3d Division) cast off the diamond-shaped badge of the 3d Army Corps, and adopted the "Blue Cross" of the 6th, we found many veterans among our new comrades, who complained that we should assume that right and privilege. "What have *they* ever done," or "where did *they* ever see any service," they would sometimes ask, forgetting that the blood already spilled by the 3d Division, if not great in quantity, was very precious in quality: not thinking, perhaps, that a glorious future awaited this very Division, and that the brightness of its record was destined to equal, if not eclipse, that of their own. It is singular, but nevertheless true, that soldiers are generally proud—even unto selfishness—of the particular command to which they belong. For instance, Infantry will disparage the services of Cavalry, to brighten the lustre of their own, and *vice versa* Cavalry will treat Infantry in the same manner. A 6th Corps man believes his is the best Corps in the army; a 2d Corps man thinks *ditto*, excepting his own; a 5th Corps representative concludes that they are both pretty good Corps, "but they havn't seen what we have," and so on.

In taking farewell of the 3d Corps Major Gen. French issued a farewell address in which he announced that the order for the discontinuance of his Corps was received by him with the "most profound regret." He said the enforcement of the order for the consolidation of the army would give it greater strength; that the newly formed Corps would be commanded by able and experienced Generals; and that these advantages would ensure success in future movements.

He further said, "Being known only in the Department where bullets whistle, there is a strong probability that I may again be associated with the comrades with whom I have served so long with pride and distinction." Although the General was rather gruff in his manner, both to his officers and men, on chance occasions he was very popular on account of being "always about" on the march, "always at the front" in time of battle and never absent from his proper post of duty in field or camp. Hence it was that, upon our separation with "Old Blinkey" (as he was familiarly known throughout the Corps), we were enabled to reciprocate the "most profound regret" he felt upon the occasion.

After this re-organization Brigadier General Henry Prince was assigned to the command of



the 3d Division, 6th A. C., and the 1st and 2d Brigades composing it were severally commanded by Brigadier Generals W. W. Morris and David Russell.

The latter retained charge of the Brigade but a few days, when he, being returned to duty in Wright's (1st) Division, in which he had previously served, was succeeded by Col. B. F. Smith, 126th Ohio Vols. On the 13th of April Brigadier General James B. Ricketts assumed command of the Division *vice* Princee, relieved by orders.

No general movement resulted from these changes in organization. Some alterations in the location of camps were made, in order that each commander might have his forces well in hand; but otherwise nothing occurred to mar the stillness of the army in winter quarters. The near approach of the season when active operations were expected to be resumed rendered some preparation necessary, and but a short time had elapsed before it was everywhere in visible operation.

The allowance of transportation was reduced; extensive issues of camp equipage, subsistence and ordnance stores were made; Corps, Divisions, Brigades and Batteries were reviewed and inspected; surplus property was removed to the



rear; and sutlers and other camp followers were required to quit the limits of the army.

Lieut. General Grant, who had very recently donned the three-starred insignia, arrived and established his Head Quarters at Culpepper C. H. The General had not been familiar with the Army of the Potomac, and notwithstanding that he had been remarkably successful in his administration of military affairs in the South-west, he had yet to win the confidence of Meade's soldiers, by showing a competency to successfully oppose their old enemy, Lee's army of Northern Virginia—the muscle, spirit and courage of the South, and the main-stay of the so-called Confederacy. It was generally predicted that in his new adversary Grant would find different material from that with which he had been accustomed to contend. Every thinking soldier was cognizant that, while we were making gigantic preparations for a forward movement, our enemy, across the Rapidan, was correspondingly mustering increased strength for defensive purposes; and that there was strife impending, unequalled during the war and unheard of in history.

With these stern impressions, the proud and invincible Army of the Potomac was ready and willing to move on, under a new commander,

upon newly devised plans, and with new organization, to meet with success or grapple with defeat, as the God of battles might will it.

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## CHAPTER IX.

### OPERATIONS AGAINST RICHMOND, BATTLES OF THE WILDERNESS.

Long before the fourth day of May, 1864, had dawned upon the hills and plains of Virginia, the rolling of drums and the shrill of bugles had aroused the slumbering Army of the Potomac, and bade it prepare for the long expected movement. Winter-quarters were soon stripped of their equipage, and the troops were paraded under arms, in readiness and waiting.

The following eloquent and soldierly address of the Commanding General was published to the army just prior to the commencement of the march; and, it is believed, not in vain, for its words of caution, confidence, and earnest appeal, were deeply impressed upon many patriotic minds with the full weight of their truth and importance:—

HEAD QUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, }  
May 4th, 1864. }

*Soldiers!*—Again you are called upon to advance on the enemies of your country. The time and the occasion are deemed opportune by your Commanding General to address you a few words of confidence and caution.

You have been re-organized, strengthened and fully equipped in every respect. You form a part of the several armies of your country, the whole under the direction of an able and distinguished General, who enjoys the confidence of the government, the people and the army. Your movement being in co-operation with others, it is of the utmost importance that no effort should be left unspared to make it successful.

Soldiers! the eyes of the whole country are looking with anxious hope to the blow you are about to strike in the most sacred cause that ever called men to arms.

Remember your homes, your wives and children, and bear in mind that the sooner your enemies are overcome the sooner you will be returned to enjoy the benefits and blessings of peace. Bear with patience the hardships and sacrifices you will be called upon to endure. Have confidence in your officers and in each other. Keep your ranks on the march and on the battle-field, and let each man earnestly implore God's blessing and endeavor by his thoughts and actions to render himself worthy of the favor he seeks. With clear consciences and strong arms, actuated by a high sense of duty, fighting to preserve the Government and the institutions handed down to

us by our forefathers—if true to ourselves—victory, under God's blessing, must and will attend our efforts.

GEO. G. MEADE,

*Major General Commanding.*

When the sun lit up the eastern horizon with its brilliancy, and transformed the darkness into day, the sturdy columns of Meade's Army were moving in martial grandeur towards the Rapidan. As far as the eye could reach, glistening muskets, fluttering banners, innumerable animals and myriads of men, moving in perfect organization and harmony, made up the principal features of that most impressive spectacle. Sheridan's dashing cavalry lead the advance, followed by the well-clad and disciplined infantry, and the splendidly equipped artillery, all of which, in the combination of their strength, were bent upon the same errand and the consummation of the same noble purpose. This fact lent "enchantment to the view." The holiness of motive which stimulated this great body of men to renewed action, and the sacred object for which they were striving, made the scene itself majestic.

At the close of the day's march, the army rested on the south bank of the Rapidan from the fatigue and discomforts of the inaugurative movement. The morning of the 5th was bright and

clear, and the troops again moved forward. Owing to their immense numbers, all the Corps could not be put in immediate motion ; and it was well nigh mid-day when the 3d Division, 6th Corps, took up its march. This (our) Division being temporarily in reserve, there were many irregular halts, and during one of these—while lying along the Gordonsville Plank Road—the old 9th Corps (having crossed the river in the morning and rejoined the Army of the Potomac) came up and passed us. Glorious Burnside and noble Hartmanft were lustily cheered. Old friends—of the 51st and 138th regiments—warmly greeted each other, and then separated to share with their commands—in different positions—the perils of the conflict already raging. Our Brigade was subjected to considerable marching and counter-marching under the direction of Brig. General Truman Seymour, who had been assigned to its command that morning ; and towards evening we were separated from the remainder of the Division, and hurriedly marched to the extreme right of the Corps. We passed over the ground from which the enemy had been driven by the 1st Division, and the numerous dead of both the rebel and union forces, with which the thickly wooded battle-field was strewn, indicated the desperate

character of the struggle in which we were about to join. Soon we came in close proximity to the enemy, and the Brigade was immediately formed for an assault on his position. It was now about dusk, and, in two lines of battle, our little command was ordered to charge, with the assurance from General Seymour that there was "but a skirmish line in our front." The attack was commenced; the Brigade made a left-half-wheel and moved steadily forward. (The 6th Maryland and 110th Ohio regiments formed the first line—and the 122d and 126th Ohio, and 138th Pa., with a detachment of non-veterans of the 67th Pa. Vet. Vols., composed the second.) We were thought by the Commanding General to be on the enemy's left flank—and in the movement we were to "swing our right." But instead of encountering a feeble picket line we found strong columns opposing us. The "swinging" movement exposed the Brigade to both a front and flank fire, the severity of which checked its further advance. However, our ground was held amid the most stubborn fighting for two hours, until the front line had exhausted their ammunition, which apparently occurred simultaneously with that of the enemy, for all firing ceased. The worn-out troops of the first line were relieved by those in reserve;

but the fighting was not resumed by either party, being mutually satisfied at its termination. A fierce infantry engagement at night in a wilderness is an awful scene to behold, and a most terrible work in which to participate.

The casualties were slight, considering the heat of the action, but nevertheless numerous. Col. J. Warren Keifer, 110th Ohio (our former Brigade Commander), had his left arm badly shattered, and the Major of his Regiment was killed. Maj. J. C. Hill, 6th Maryland, received a dangerous wound, and many officers and men of these and other regiments fell victims to death and injury. In the 138th Regiment the casualties numbered twelve or fifteen: Sergeant Biesecker, Co. B, and Corporal John H. Ashenfelter of the Color Guard, were killed, and a number wounded—among which was 2d Lieut. H. C. Grossman, Co. B. The Brigade was reformed and ordered to bivouac, and further, to be in readiness to attack again at daylight. The troops slept on their arms that eventful night within one hundred yards of the enemy's pickets. The doleful cry of the "whippoorwill;" the moans of the wounded between the two lines of skirmishers; the sharp challenge of sentinels on either side; the ominous *click* and sudden discharge of a musket where a



“halt!” was disregarded,—were sounds heard which tended to create very solemn impressions. In the meantime the enemy could be heard chopping, working, and fortifying in our front and far on our right flank, and moving artillery into position. Colonel McClennan, with other regimental commanders, waited on Gen. Seymour, and reported this fact, urging him to take measures to prevent a flank attack by the enemy, and at least to report to Gen. Sedgwick the folly and impracticability of an assault in the morning. What effect these recommendations had is unknown; but when morning came—and with it sharp skirmishing—the order for the contemplated charge was still in existence.

About 9 o'clock A. M. the final mandate was given, and the Brigade moved forward, supported on the right and rear by Gen. Shaler's (4th) Brigade, 1st Division. Gen. Seymour appeared, and personally commanded that not a shot should be fired until the enemy's works were reached, saying, “We must find where those rebels are;” and, with the comforting injunction, “Give 'em the bayonet!” he waved the signal for the charge.

The bustle of moving troops, the rustle of under-brush, the clanking of arms and sabres, and the commands of officers soon apprised the rebels



that they were again attacked. The volleys of skirmishers deepened into showers, and then a perfect storm of deadly missiles greeted our advance. On—on—moved our lines until within fifty yards of the rebel works, and the smoke and flash of the enemy's guns were plainly visible through the trees and bushes.

Felled trees and tangled branches, with the severity of this fire, were formidable obstacles to our success; but just at the time when it appeared that the works would be carried, impatient soldiers began to stop and fire, contrary to orders. It is easy to imagine that men exposed to such a deadly storm, find it difficult to restrain themselves from retaliatory action, but under just such circumstances, and in the same manner, many a promising attack has resulted in disastrous defeat. This assault, however, had no promises of victory, for every man who bore his part in it, from the private soldier up to the Regimental commander, knew by the experience of the previous night, and by the difficulties already met, that *such* an attack in *such* force, was next to madness. But trusting in the sagacity of General officers and hoping for success, despite of ill prospects, these men obeyed and struggled manfully. This irregular firing commenced by a few, becoming conta-

gious spread to the many; and our lines were checked. The enemy from behind well-constructed entrenchments, poured forth a most destructive blaze of musketry, and from well trained artillery came shrieking shell and "humming" charges of canister. We were enfiladed and almost surrounded, but our men stood firm. Sheltered by friendly trees and logs lying on the ground, standing unprotected except by the hand of Providence, the men of this Brigade fought gallantly and stubbornly, contended against overwhelming numbers, and the disadvantages of their situation.

The 138th occupied the centre of the front line, with the 126th and 122d Ohio regiments on its right and left, and was supported by the 6th Md. and 110th Ohio Vols. Col. B. F. Smith, 126th O. V. I., sat on his horse in rear of his regiment, coolly snapping his fingers and saying, "Give it to 'em, boys!" Col. McClennan, of the 138th, and Col. Ball, of the 122d Ohio, stood calmly by their commands, anxiously watching the contest and awaiting orders. In the meantime numbers of brave men were falling from the ranks of every company. Color Sergeant Samuel Aikens, having a hand mangled, dropped the tattered standard of the Regiment, and left the line, his face distorted



with pain. Sergeant Chas. H. Fitzgerald, Co. C, seized the old flag, and planting it in the ground before him, used his musket more earnestly than before. Lieut. J. E. Essick, Co. A, was wounded in the head, and taken from the field, and scores of others were killed and disabled. No partiality is meant by thus alluding to a few individual cases—and, while asking the indulgence of those who shared in the casualties of this fray—the writer is inclined to mention still another incident, of which he was a witness—the death of 2d Lieut. John H. Fisher, Co. I. At a time when the battle raged fiercest, the Lieutenant, while fearlessly commanding a detachment\* of the 67th P. V. V. then serving with our Regiment, and behaving with cool intrepidity—was pierced through the breast by a Minie ball, and fell backwards to the ground. The writer, at once moving to his side, seized his hand and endeavored to raise him from his prostrate condition, but without avail. His heart's blood and bodily strength were fast leaving him. He gasped something, and upon being asked what he was saying, he called the writer by name, familiarly, and in

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\* *Non-veterans* assigned to temporary duty with 138th P. V. during the absence of the 67th Regiment, which, having re-enlisted, were absent on veteran furlough.

almost inaudible tones faintly whispered, "Tell mother——" and sank back exhausted; the blood gushed from his mouth, and in an instant the handsome form of this brave young officer was cold and lifeless. This is one of many like instances which occurred in the same battle, and it is a matter to be regretted that all cannot be recorded. It will, however, show—to the kind-hearted—a picture both sad and noble—the heroic death of a patriot, with unfinished words expressing filial affection upon his lips.

The strife fiercely continued for upwards of an hour, when orders came to the several regiments to retire, there being no hope of further success. In this short time our ranks had been fearfully thinned; and in falling back many of the dead and a number of the severely wounded were unavoidably abandoned. Our lines were re-established in about the same location from which we started in the morning—and with the exception of skirmishing between pickets the firing in our front ceased. Far on our left the sound of battle extended, and we began to realize that our share of this great Wilderness conflict but represented in proportion of numbers the unexampled magnitude and sanguinary character of the whole.

The command remained in quietness behind

temporary and hastily constructed works, until late in the evening, in expectation of an attack by the enemy. Gen. Seymour ordered that the troops be allowed "to make small fires and cook coffee" (a privilege which they had not enjoyed since the morning of the 5th), and rode off to Gen. Sedgwick's Head Quarters.

This order was being gladly obeyed, and the smoke began to curl heavenward, when a rebel force came down on Shaler's unsuspecting Brigade, which lay upon our right, with the force of a thunderbolt, and by the time Seymour's Brigade had resumed their arms, a mingled and confused body of rebels and Yankees was surging rapidly towards our left and directly in our rear. Then came a strong force of rebel infantry and charged directly on our Brigade flank. It was "Gordon's Georgia Brigade," of Ewell's Corps, and, with their peculiar yell and a withering volley, they turned our right and "sent us whirling." Gen. Seymour returned in time to meet his flying troops, and, with Gen. Shaler, to be captured by the rebels. The retreat extended down a narrow wagon road in the woods for upwards of two miles, when the disordered troops were reformed by Gen. Sedgwick and his subordinates. The enemy encouraged by the failure of our assault in

the morning, by the success of his flank attack, and by loss inflicted and captures made, pushed on apparently with the determination to drive us to the Rapidan. But other portions of the 6th Corps, with troops of the 5th, were quickly summoned to the rescue; the lost ground was retaken, and our lines re-established. The scattered troops of the 2d Brigade and others who shared in the retreat were collected and that night bivouaced on the Chancellorsville Road. These troops were somewhat censured for being "disgracefully routed" by men of other commands, and by certain public journals; but those who participated in that desperate charge in the morning and were carried away in the confusion of the evening's retreat, well know that the disastrous failure of the former and the disgrace of the latter were attributable only to the imbecility of commanding officers. The same authority that governed the unlucky day at Olustee, and led the fruitless assault on Fort Wagner, conducted this handful of braves in the charge of May 6th against fortified thousands, and, by neglect of proper precautions, permitted their repulse to be succeeded by dispersion and defeat. These reflections are not intended to bring into disrepute the name of any commander, but, in



justice to the now living soldiers who bravely struggled in a contest almost hopeless, and to the memory of the lamented slain—to show that the ill-results of the battle did not ensue from any lack of enthusiasm or determined courage upon their part.

## LIST OF CASUALTIES IN THE 138TH REGIMENT P. V.

AT THE BATTLES OF THE WILDERNESS, VA., MAY, 1864.

### COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

2d Lieut. J. H. Fisher, Company I, killed May 6th.

2d Lieut. J. E. Essick, Company A, mortally wounded May 6th.

2d Lt. H. C. Grossman, Company B, severely wounded May 5th.

### ENLISTED MEN—KILLED.

#### *Company A.*

Corp. J. H. Slingluff, May 6th. | Pvt. Wm. Magee, May 6th.

#### *Company B.*

Sergt. J. F. Biesecker, May 5th | Pvt. Chas. Dickson, May 6th.

#### *Company C.*

Pvt. Jos. R. Slean, May 6th. |

#### *Company D.*

Corp. E. J. Hickson, May 6th. | Corp. Jos. Price, May 6th.

#### *Company E.*

Sergt. Wm. B. Amick, May 6th | Corp. Wm. Ake, May 6th.

#### *Company F.*

Sergt. Jackson Miller, May 6th | Pvt. Henry Miller, May 6th.

#### *Company G.*

Sergt. Thos. F. Elden, May 6th | Pvt. C. Slaybaugh, May 6th.

Corp. D. H. Chronister, “ | Pvt. Q. A. Linah, “

Pvt. James Warren, “ |

#### *Company H.*

Pvt. Jno. R. Moyer, May 6th. |

#### *Company I.*

Corp. Geo. H. Kolp, May 6th. |



*Company K.*

Sergt. C. B. Thompson, May 6th	Pvt. Jeremiah Leshar, May 6th
Corp. Daniel Kulp, "	" Geo. Burke, "
Corp. J. H. Ashenfelter, May 5.	" Jno. F. Miller, "
Pvt. Benj. Brayman, May 6th.	" R. P. March, "

## WOUNDED.

*Company A.*

Sergt. H. Bickel, May 6th.	Pvt. D. H. Lukens, May 6th.
Corp. E. B. Buzby, "	" Chas Pugh, "
Pvt. Samuel Grubb, "	

*Company B.*

Corp. D. D. Dewalt, May 6th.	Pvt. D. S. Kitzmiller, May 6th.
Corp. Geo. E. Booth, "	" Geo. W. Miller, "
Pvt. L. Hummelbaugh, "	" E. Miller, "
" P. Deardoff, "	" Jno. McClure, "
" W. Cover, "	" H. L. Hersh, "

*Company C.*

Sergt. H. S. Smith, May 6th.	Pvt. A. B. Sutch, May 6th.
Sergt. Samuel Aikens, "	" Geo. Wilson, "
Pvt. Henry Cornog, "	" Allen Quarmby, "
" J. F. Huston, "	" C. Rodenbaugh, "
" G. E. Lowery, "	" Henry Fulmer, "
" C. W. Makens, "	" Levi Cutler, "

*Company D.*

Sergt. Jona. Snider, May 6th.	Pvt. Geo. Hellman, May 6th.
Corp. H. McCleary, "	" J. A. Hochard, "
" Jos. Hoffman, "	

*Company E.*

Pvt. H. H. King, May 5th.	Pvt. John Leonard, May 6th.
" A. Biddle, "	" Biven Meloy, "
" Miles Smith, "	" Nathaniel Kegg, "
" Wm. Robinson, "	" Wm. R. Smith, "
" J. A. Ake, May 6th.	" Jos. Carrell, "
" C. Claycomb, "	" Abram Corl, "
" John Cook, "	

*Company F.*

Corp. Jno. W. May, May 6th.	Pvt. Geo. W. Holler, May 6th.
" Levi Cook, "	" Jacob Smith, "
Pvt. Henry Miller, "	" Albert Armstrong, "
" Frank Baner, "	

*Company G.*

Corp. G. W. Barchet, May 6th.	Pvt. Jacob Klepper, May 6th.
" Amos Hoffman, "	" E. N. Hartzel, May 5th.
Pvt. Cornelius Crist, "	" H. W. Kann, "
" Jesse Ebert, "	" Amos Meals, "
" John Clever, "	" Jacob Bushey, May 6th.
" John G. Scott, "	

*Company H.*

Corp. G. W. Sigafos, May 5th.	Pvt. Reuben Scheetz, May 5th.
" Wm. W. Rogers, "	" Fred. Sigafos, "
" J. F. Frantz, "	

*Company I.*

Pvt. Wm. W. Bennett, May 6th.	Pvt. Chris. Kastler, May 6th.
" Christian Stagner, "	" James Parks, "
" Edward Sprogell, "	" John Seifert, "

*Company K.*

Pvt. Henry Umstead, May 5th.	Pvt. John Cratz, May 6th.
" Thomas Whalon, "	" C. Hoffnagle, "
" J. W. Undercoffler, May 6th.	" S. Kingkner, "
" Frank Walton, "	" H. C. Moser, "
" Hiram M. Puff, "	

## MISSING.

*May 6th, 1864.*

Pvt. Archibald Stewart, Co. A.	Pvt. Wm. Defibaugh, Co. E.
" Wm. H. H. Stultz, " B.	" Henry Swartley, " I.
" Thomas J. Miller, " D.	" Edw. W. Sterner, " K.
" Chas. Summerville, " "	" Aaron C. Mattis, " "
" Joseph Loy, " E.	

## RECAPITULATION.

## KILLED.

Officers, 1.—Enlisted men, 26. Total, 27

## WOUNDED.

Officers, 2.—Enlisted men, 92. Total, 94

## MISSING.

Enlisted men, 9. Total, 9

Aggregate loss, 130

NOTE.—In addition to the above casualties, 26 enlisted men were captured by the enemy, making the entire loss 165.

## CHAPTER X.

### SPOTTSYLVANIA.

On the 7th day of May, the army acted principally on the defensive, and the operations of the day were almost confined to skirmishing. Strong works were however erected, and the precautions taken led to the belief that the bloody Wilderness drama was to be protracted with the contending armies, in positions materially unchanged. But during the night, Grant's first flank movement in the campaign of '64 commenced.

Troops who had watchfully occupied the trenches now moved quietly off to "the left," and the entire army joined in snake-like motion *via* Chancellorsville, south eastward, in the direction of Spottsylvania Court House.

On the 8th the 6th Corps reached the vicinity of that place, encountering the rebels in strong force, and in the afternoon was deployed in order of battle, a charge on the enemy's works being anticipated. It was not, however, executed, and during the night our troops were ordered to entrench. From this day until the 14th the army

remained in the same vicinity battling with the enemy, who stubbornly maintained his position, although constantly confronted and goaded at all points. The defensive ground chosen by Lee was very much like that of the Wilderness, being densely wooded and plentifully interspersed with creeks and swamps. It was equally well adapted to the aid of the rebels, and the embarrassment of their assailants; the contending forces were separated by but a few hundred yards, both protected by strong works against any assault which either might undertake. A murderous system of sharp-shooting was kept up continually, and at periods heavy discharges of artillery were made, the combined sounds of which were those of prolonged and incessant battle. The sharp-shooting was especially destructive. On the morning of the 9th our Corps commander boasted by the Army of the Potomac as one of its ablest Generals, Major Gen. John Sedgwick, while at the extreme front, overlooking the location of a battery, was shot in the head and immediately after expired.

It is said that but a few moments before he had rebuked a soldier working in the trenches for "dodging the minies" which were flying about in dangerous abundance. Casualties caused in this

manner were in constant occurrence and it was not safe to expose for a moment ones body above the shelter of the breastworks on any portion of the line.

Some very heavy fighting occurred on the 10th, and our forces were successful in capturing prisoners and cannon. Official news from General Butler, who was operating against Richmond, from the south with the Army of the James, and from Gen Sherman in the southwest, of cheering import were promulgated on this day to the troops. These reports represented the former "in possession of Petersburg and marching on Richmond," and the victorious troops of the latter in close pursuit of the retreating demoralized hordes of Joe Johnson. Sheridan's official dispatch relative to his famous raid around Lee's army, his destruction of an immense quantities of rebel supplies, and the liberation of a large number of Union prisoners from captivity, was also published. This encouraging information from important military points served greatly to inspire the army with rekindled hope and vigor, and to relieve the cares of our exhausted and war-worn soldiers. Here, at Spottsylvania, we of the 3d Division, first *knew* General Ricketts, our new commander.

He, with his staff, leaving horses, baggage, &c., in the rear, staid in the trenches with common soldiers. Assuming no false dignity, he conducted himself as if conscious that he "held his life in his hand" with the humblest of his command, and that he owed to his men his presence and encouragement, as well as they in return were bound to respect and obey. He mingled and chatted with the soldiers of his Division, and in the meantime watched, commanded and executed, alternately, as his duties and orders required. The care he exercised for the safety and welfare of his troops, his fearless participation in all danger in which they, under his charge, were involved, at once admitted him into their affections. He was always ready for emergencies, prompt to act, willing to brave trouble and was always approachable. These traits made him "the successful and popular General of the 3d Division."

On the 12th of May the 6th Corps in connexion with the 2d made a heavy assault upon the rebel works, and some of the bloodiest fighting on record transpired.

The 1st and 2d Divisions (of our Corps) bore the brunt of the battle, the 3d being held partially in reserve and but slightly engaged. This was on the famous "Slaughter pen" battle ground,

where Hancock "finished up Johnston;" where forest-trees were literally felled by bullets; and where heaps of slain and quivering masses of the mangled strongly attested the propriety of its given name. The following day brought a moderation of this indecisive strife, both forces being well exhausted, and the weather proving rainy and unfavorable for operations. It will be readily remembered, by the members of the regiment, that on this (13th) day we first, after crossing the Rapidan, had an opportunity of writing home. Many a hand traced for expectant relatives and friends the welcome tidings of "good health and still safe." Short narratives of the scenes of carnage through which we had passed were given, and upon many devolved the duty of reporting the sad intelligence of fallen comrades. Well knowing the anxiety of loved ones, it was gratifying to breathe homeward words of comfort after eight days hard fighting. It was a sorrowful duty to say that — — — was among the *killed*, and solemn to think that days of bloodshed were still before us, and the impressions of the occasion were such as to limit the letter-writer to pure sayings and serious truths. At 3 A. M., 14th, the army was set in motion and marched from Spottsylvania, the enemy having retired southward;



the Fredericksburg and Richmond road was the route, but towards evening a deviation was made, and the Ny river was encountered, beyond which the enemy was said to be located. A reconnoitring force of the 1st Division had been driven in the afternoon, from the vicinity of the "Bleak House," and just opposite this point the Corps was ordered to cross and attack, if the enemy could be found. Luckily no opposition in force was met with, and the fording of the river was accomplished successfully. On the 15th the Corps fortified and remained quiet until the night of the 17th, when it was ordered to march back to the old 2d Corps field at Spottsylvania, where on the 18th Hancock was again engaged with a rebel force which was attempting some diversion to cover a main movement. The regiment was here subjected to heavy fire, although not closely engaged. At night we returned to our new position south of the Ny river.

May 19th the army advanced about two miles, and the left was "swung around" considerably. Here works were again erected. On the 21st the 6th Corps retired to a new line of fortifications prepared for the purpose, a ruse which was successful in inviting an attack from Hill's Corps, which was, however, easily repulsed by our ad-

mirably trained batteries. After dark another march to "the left" was commenced, and continued during the night. It was extended on the day following, by way of Guinney's Station, west of Bowling Green to the North Anna river, near which we arrived on the 24th.

On the 25th our Brigade, which had been performing service as train-guard, crossed the river and joined the Division, which we found in works a brief distance beyond. Some fighting here occurred, but none with the 6th Corps, the 5th and 9th being chiefly engaged. May 26th a reconnoissance was effected to Noel's Station, on the Virginia Central railroad, but at dark the troops countermarched, recrossed the river, and moved to Chesterfield Station, a probable distance of eight or ten miles. This march was known as "the mud march," because of the intensely muddy and almost impassable condition of the roads. They were so cut up by the passage of artillery and wagon trains, that they were knee deep with mud and water, and in some places pools were encountered into which men would sink to their waists. The night was very dark and from all these difficulties some confusion resulted. Unfortunate men fell and lost their muskets, some left their shoes buried deep in the mire, and it is

believed that a few actually perished from prostration and suffocation in the mud.

The march was ended at midnight and the troops rested. On the 27th the Corps moved to Sailer's Ford, on the Pamunkey, which river was crossed on the next day. A position was taken up immediately beyond, on a ridge of hills and fortified. On the 30th the march was again resumed towards Richmond direct, but afterward a diagonal course was adopted, which brought us in contact with the rebels on Tolopatomoy creek, some half-dozen miles from the Pamunkey. The 2d Corps had quite a spirited fight, and on the 31st the 6th joined in the action. It was not, however, extensive, and our regiment incurred but few casualties. The battle was called "Tolopatomoy." At midnight another "to the left" movement was begun, and the remainder of the night was spent on the road to Cold Harbor.

It has not been deemed necessary to particularize in description all the movements and skirmishes in which the regiment shared in the month of May, after the battles of the Wilderness. The slight attention given these points does not indicate that they are topics of an unimportant epoch in the history of the regiment, for during this period untold hardships of exposure and

danger were endured ; but is meant only to avoid repetition which would doubtless rather serve to tire than interest the reader. Therefore, to suffice all ends, the foregoing summary of operations, and the following list of casualties, is the completion of the record for May, 1864.

# LIST OF CASUALTIES AT SPOTTSYLVANIA AND TOLOPATOMOY, MAY, 1864.

## KILLED—1.

Private, John O. Staub, Co. B, May 18th.

## WOUNDED—12.

Private Benjamin D. Harrar, Co. A, May 12th.

“ Jacob A. Kitzmiller, Co. B, May 13th.

“ John Englebert, Co. B, May 13th.

“ William H. Coulson, Co. C, May 20th.

“ James C. Saylor, Co. C, May 20th.

“ Daniel Price, Co. E, May 12th.

“ Simon M. Feather, Co. E, May 19th.

“ Andrew Corbet, Co. G, May 12th.

“ Samuel Kelly, Co. G, May 12th.

Sergt. George W. Shoffner, Co. I, May 31st.

Private Joseph L. Williams, Co. I, May 12th.

“ George W. Dutter, Co. K, May 13th.

## CHAPTER XI.

### COLD HARBOR, AND ACROSS THE JAMES.

The 1st of June, 1864, was one of the sultriest days of the season, and we were plodding a weary way on a forced march to Cold Harbor. The roads were intolerably dusty, the heat of the atmosphere was intense, and the movement being rapid, was one of severe trials. About 3 p. m. the 6th Corps came up to our Cavalry advance, who, under Custer, were skirmishing with the rebels in a desolate neighborhood, said to be the above-named place of our destination. Almost immediately after our arrival there, the Corps, with troops under General "Baldy Smith," who had just come from Butler's army by way of White House Landing, were ordered to prepare for an engagement. A hasty disposition of these commands was made; skirmishers were advanced; the enemy's position partially developed; a plan of assault selected, and at 5 o'clock the attack was commenced.

The 3d Division on the right of the Corps, adjoining Gen. Smith's left, moved forward in four

lines of battle, and with great promptness. The front line of the 2d Brigade consisted of the 6th Maryland and the 138th Pa. regiments, and these two regiments were the first to encounter a galling fire from the enemy's sharp-shooters and a difficult swamp which had to be crossed. These obstacles overcome, the rebel main line, situated on a ridge thickly wooded with pine, was found defended by strong numbers. The 6th and 138th were the first troops to clamber the works and break the rebel front, which was only accomplished by a solid rush and hard fighting.

The confusion and flight of the enemy resulting from this breach in their line was quickly followed up, and, in a short time, the two above specified regiments had captured more prisoners than their own numbers.

On other portions of the line our troops had not carried the works, and we, in our zeal to drive the enemy, soon distanced all supporting columns to the jeopardy of our own safety. At one period the men of our regiment drove the gunners from a battery; but when within a few yards of its position, and about to seize it, our scattered and weakened numbers became apparent to the enemy, who rallied heavily against us, returned to their guns, and checked our further

advance by a raking charge of cannister. We were hard pressed, but the captured ground was maintained. The entire 3d Division joined in the work with alacrity at the first onset, and to this command belongs the credit of being the only Division of two corps to successfully accomplish the task assigned it in this battle. This means no reflection upon other troops; but the behavior of Rickett's Division was such as to elicit the commendation of the Army Commander in an official order of congratulation addressed specially to them, a very unusual compliment, viz :—

HD. QRS. ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, }  
June 1st, 1864. }

MAJ. GEN. WRIGHT, *Commanding 6th Corps* :

Please give my thanks to Brig. Gen. Ricketts and his gallant command for the very handsome manner in which they conducted themselves to-day.

The success attained by them is of great importance, and if promptly followed up will materially advance our operations.

GEO. G. MEADE,  
*Maj. Gen. Commanding.*

This dispatch was sent to Gen. Ricketts, endorsed with the words, "Major General Wright directs me to say that he transmits the above to you with great pleasure," by Gen. Wright's Assistant Adjutant General. The Division was



afterwards acknowledged by the veterans, who reflected upon its record when first admitted to the 6th Corps, as an equal in valor to any like organization. If it was not entitled to this recognition before, it was fully earned at Cold Harbor, for by quickness and willingness to move, energy to seize, and stubbornness to hold, they made a victory of no trifling importance, which materially injured the enemy, and gave great advantage to our army. The Division Commander, in an order recommending the wearing of the Corps badge, issued shortly after this battle, used the expression—that “the events of the campaign had shown the *blue cross* to be an honorable mark of distinction,” and hoped all his men would be proud to adopt it.

During the night of the 1st all scattered troops were collected, our lines were reformed and strengthened, and the earthworks taken from the rebels were reversed for the defensive use of their captors. On the 2d orders were issued for another assault, but soon after rescinded. An advance was made on the morning of the 3d, but without success, and both armies, finding each other immovable, set to “digging.”

Gen. Meade ordered a temporary suspension of offensive operations, to allow his hard-taxed sol-

diers a little respite from the toil of march and the hardship of battle, and to provide for a recuperation of supplies. Meanwhile, the entrenchments were made more formidable, new batteries were erected, and by a series of "zig-zag ditches," gradual approaches were being effected to the rebel lines. This latter work continued until the belligerents were within easy speaking distance, and until its practicability ceased.

Very little change occurred in the position of the Union army while here, and its operations were those of a siege, close, stubborn and tedious. The troops were confined to the trenches for twelve days and nights, with constant cannonading and sharp-shooting in progress.

On the night of the 12th of June, an evacuation was ordered, and Gen. Grant moved his army upon another great flanking march. This was not foreshadowed by any order or manœuvre and was totally unexpected, for we were but six or seven miles then from the rebel Capital.

However, without reluctance, and with implicit confidence in the military sagacity of our Lieut. General, and in the ultimate success of his plans, we marched at midnight from the battle-scarred ground of Cold Harbor, in the direction of the James River.

# LIST OF CASUALTIES AT COLD HARBOR, VIRGINIA, JUNE, 1864.

## COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.—KILLED.

*Company F*—1st Lieut. Charles P. McLaughlin, June 1st.

## WOUNDED.

*Company K*—1st Lieut. Jonathan P. Iredell, June 1st.

## ENLISTED MEN.—KILLED.

*Company B*—Private John Kitzmiller, June 1st.

*Company C*—Private David L. Dotts, June 1st.

*Company D*—Private Noah Allison, June 5th.

*Company E*—Private Adam Beltz, June 5th.

*Company G*—Private Edwin Brame, June 1st.

*Company H*—Private Clayton B. Evernham, June 1st.

## WOUNDED.

### *Company A.*

Sgt. Davis W. Roberts, June 1st	Pvt. Crary Stewart, June 1st.
Pvt. Archibald Stewart, “	“ Watson Wilde, June 4th.
Corp. Elbridge Griffith, “	“ Hen. C. Rhoads, June 1st.

### *Company B.*

Pvt. Wm. A. Hake, June 1st.	Sergt. John G. Frey, June 1st.
“ Joseph W. Linn, “	Pvt. Peter Miller, “
“ Henry J. Wortz, “	“ John T. Crouse, “
“ Wm. H. H. Stultz, “	

### *Company C.*

Pvt. Win. S. Markley, June 1st.	Pvt. Isaac P. Freese, June 6th.
“ Wm. Wills, “	“ Wm. Moore, June 8th.

### *Company D.*

Pvt. Nicholas W. Beals, June 1st	Pvt. John Nycum, June 1st.
“ Josiah G. Leasure, “	Corp. Emanuel Lowrey, June 5th
“ Emanuel Mock, “	“ H. Barkman, June 1st.

### *Company E.*

Corp. F. Steckman, June 1st.	Pvt. Moses G. Bagley, June 1st.
Pvt. Geo. W. Fleegle, “	“ Allen Cobler, “

### *Company F.*

Corp. J. Moser, June 1st.	Pvt. David Rush, June 1st.
Pvt. Franklin Baner, June 1st.	“ Hiram May, “

### *Company G.*

Sgt. D. B. Slaybaugh, June 1st.	Pvt. Hen. C. Sadler, June 1st.
Pvt. Isaac McConly, “	“ Isaiah B. Christ, “
“ Henry G. Conrad, “	

*Company II.*

Corp. Andrew Bothel, June 1st.	Pvt. Lewis R. Smith, June 1st.
Pvt. James Vinson,       “	“   Wm. B. Hare.       “
“   Jacob D. Kindy,       “	“   Henry C. Skelton,   “

*Company I.*

Pvt. W. H. Heritage, June 1st.	Pvt. Joseph D. Hagey, June 1st.
“   Jos. T. Michener, June 6th.	Corp. Staats V. D. Wack,   “
“   Saml. P. Moore, June 1st.	“   John Shaffner,       “
“   Jonas Trauger,       “	Pvt. Chas. Prinzing,       “

*Company K.*

Pvt. Henry Nicholas, June 1st.	Pvt. Wm. Neff, June 1st.
“   James Cannon, June 3d.	

## MISSING.

*Company C*—Pvt. Wm. F. Jones, June 1st.*Company E*—Corp. Martin L. Conly, June 1st.*Company F*—Pvt. Henry Kelly, June 1st; Pvt. Shannon E. McCoy, June 1st.*Company G*—Pvt. Martin Fehl, June 1st.*Company H*—Pvt. Wm. Rupel, June 1st.*Company K*—Pvt. I. K. Shoemaker, June 1st.

## RECAPITULATION.

Killed,	1 officer and 6 men.	Total,	7
Wounded, 1	“   “   53	“   “	54
Missing,	7	“   “	7
<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total, 2 officers and 66 men.		Aggregate,	68

The abandonment of the position at Cold Harbor was so skilfully managed, that on the morning of the 13th the enemy found nothing in their front but unguarded entrenchments, and learned with chagrin that the Army of the Potomac was many miles distant on a strategic course which to them was beyond comprehension. As an evidence of the stealthiness of this movement, an incident can here be fitly introduced. The orders

for the evacuation were not given to the troops until dark of the 12th, and some of those not immediately at the front did not even then receive them. The mail-carrier of the regiment, Private John Harrold, Company A, popularly known as "Billy Barlow" on account of his good singing of that ballad on jocose occasions, happened at this date to be near the Division Hospital, absent from the regiment; and early on the following morning he, mounted on his steed well known to men of the regiment as "old Rapidan," started to the front, and rode unsuspectingly into the rebel lines, where, of course, he was at once divested of his horse and trappings as well as his personal effects, and sent to serve a term of misery in southern prisons.

As soldiers value good mail facilities, we had learned to appreciate his punctual attendance to his duties, and after his capture we, missing the daily calls of "Letters!" from his familiar voice, regretted the misfortune that caused his absence.

The 6th Corps reached Charles City Court House on the 14th, and remained in that vicinity until other troops and the trains of the entire army had crossed the James on pontoon bridges. We embarked on steam transports on the night of the 16th, and while the remainder of the Corps

was shipped to City Point, the 3d Division was conveyed to Point of Rocks on the Appomattox and there ordered to land. On the 17th our command was assigned a position in the trenches of Butler's army at Bermuda Hundred.

We were relieved from duty here on the 19th, and rejoined the Corps then lying before Petersburg. After this our movements were directly near that city, which was closely invested. The success here met with did not fully meet our anticipations, but Gen. Grant at once established his troops in tenable positions, and inaugurated the final siege of the "Gate City," the Capital of the Rebellion. The 6th Corps marched to Ream's Station, some six or eight miles from the left of the main army, on the 29th and succeeded in destroying some miles of the Weldon railroad.

The next day we returned to our old position, and remained quiet.

We were startled and surprised at 2 A. M. on the 6th of July, at the receipt of orders that "Rickett's Division of the 6th Corps would immediately proceed to City Point, to be from there transported by water and rail to Harpers' Ferry."

What necessitated the presence of additional troops at that point was unknown to us, and the question gave rise to much speculation. A march

of some fifteen miles brought us to "the Point," and soon after our little fleet was steaming down the James, bound for Baltimore City.

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## CHAPTER XII.

### MONOCACY.

Arriving at Baltimore about 5 A. M. on the 8th of July, the 138th Regiment debarked from the transport "Jersey Blue," aboard of which it had spent some thirty-six hours; and with the rest of the Division was hurriedly loaded upon cars of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, which had awaited our arrival and which were put in immediate motion westward.

Upon reaching "Monocacy," or Frederick Junction, about 4 P. M., some fifty miles from the city, instructions came from Major General Wallace, commanding the Department, to disembark the troops and to proceed no further until specially ordered. That night we bivouaced on the loyal soil of Maryland. Our trip on the water and by rail had been generally pleasant, and we had passed over a route with which we were some-



what familiar. The country was rich with golden harvest crops and Nature clothed the scenery with the finest garb of the season.

From every house on the line of the railroad, as the long trains of troops rolled by, flags and handkerchiefs were waving; old men and matrons, fair ladies and wondering children, farm-laborers and negroes, looked on, greeted, cheered and wished us "God speed." The contrast between these fertile fields and peaceful homes, and the barren wastes and desolated places of war-begrimmed Virginia, was so impressive that we imagined the very air was purer—the water sweeter—and that our grassy couches equalled in comfort the downy cushions of luxuriant home. To borrow an expression of Captain S——, it was a consoling fact that "if a man *was to be* killed in such a country, he would at least receive decent Christian burial."

Rumors from the enemy said to be invading the North were varied and unreliable. We learned that Early with considerable force was coming, but from where or how near we knew not, except that he was in some part of Western Maryland. So we slept with unconcern because of ignorance of his proximity.

The morning of the 9th found us in prepara

tion for battle, the rebels having appeared at Frederick City, about three miles distant.

Neither had we much time to delay, for by nine o'clock the main body of Early's invaders had arrived, and skirmishing had commenced. Our lines were formed as follows: General Lew Wallace's troops, which were principally composed of inexperienced and undisciplined soldiers, held the right which rested on a high, fortified bluff overlooking the railroad, the Monocacy creek and the approaches to and from Frederick City; while Ricketts' Division, formed in two lines of battle, joined their left and extended southward on the east bank of the creek.

The entire force held a line crescent-shaped, stretching across the Baltimore and Ohio railroad and the Washington turnpike. About 10 A. M. the skirmishing grew more brisk, and sundry petty charges and manœuvres were made by the enemy. It was soon developed that our foe was superior in numbers and we were compelled to act on the defensive. The rebels began to closely invest our position, and brought to bear with surprising accuracy his well-trained artillery. In this branch we were sadly deficient, having only a few mounted howitzers, and a single light Battery, which was noticeably inefficient, both its men and

officers showing inexperience and timidity. There were no entrenching tools to be had, and our command stood waiting the result of the day, engaging an enemy at least by four times exceeding them in strength. Our regiment at first formed a part of the 2d line, near the right of the Division, and companies A, D, F and I, were detailed for duty on the skirmish line; but about 2 p. m. the Division was stretched out into a single line of battle, without support, and with the left flank totally unprotected.

This manœuvre brought the 138th near to the left, and in time to meet at that point a heavy attack made by the rebels in three lines of battle. They had covered and forced us to extend our front, and now, knowing that we necessarily must be weak, designed to march directly beyond and in rear of our left flank, double it up, and by making a general onset, "gobble" or disperse our whole command. As this flanking column came nearer, the left of our line was slowly recoiled, until it could not be "turned" without the isolation of the attacking party from its main body. Foiled in carrying out their original plan, the rebels now came in direct assault against us. Their three formidable lines came boldly up, with flaunting banners and bristling steel, as if by

one grand demonstration to sweep us from the field. When they had approached within one hundred and fifty yards, our troops poured into their well-closed ranks a withering fire, which, being continuously kept up, soon shattered, demoralized and scattered the first, and alike the second column. Ours was but a single line—and an emaciated and weakened one at that—but nerved to desperation and knowing the importance of the issue it was determined to hold out as long as a possibility of so doing existed.

The third line of rebels came forward and the battle raged with renewed heat. All along the Division line charge after charge was made and successively repulsed. Our regiment\* and a portion of the 9th N. Y. Heavy Artillery formed the extreme left of the command, and gave effective aid in administering severe punishment upon our assailants who still pressed us heavily. A single battery on the field was “pumping away” over our heads, but without any apparent damage to the enemy. We knew that if we had “McKnight’s,” or any other 6th Corps battery,

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\*NOTE.—In this battle, Col. McClennan exercised command of the 2d Brigade, being Senior officer present with it; and Major Lewis A. May, that of the Regiment.

the day could have been saved, and every soldier present deplored their absence.

About 5 p. m. the troops (Wallace's) on the north side of the railroad gave way in confusion and our right was lost. The enemy, enabled by this mishap, pushed quickly to surround us, and in a few moments would have succeeded, had not Gen. Ricketts at once ordered the troops to fall back as rapidly as possible towards the Baltimore pike. Then came a hasty abandonment of the field, our dead, and many of the wounded. The rebels closely followed with skirmishers, and planting artillery on the ridge we had occupied, shelled our retreat with damaging effect. The Frederick and Baltimore pike was soon gained, and our column moved towards the latter city. The enemy did not pursue any distance, but, gathering anew his shattered strength, moved in the direction of Washington.

This battle was one of great spirit and importance. The 3d Division, 6th A. C., with trifling assistance from other troops, by a hard day's fighting, held in check a stubborn, well-chosen and overpowering force of invaders, sufficiently long to cover the National Capital, and allow its reinforcement and preparation for defense. If the command had been supplied with facilities for

entrenching and with good artillery the enemy could have been longer delayed, if not utterly repulsed and driven to rout. As it was, the Division, numbering not more than 3500 (the entire force present not exceeding 5000), was engaged in close encounter with two veteran Corps of rebels, and only retreated when totally overwhelmed.

Gen. Ricketts, at 2 o'clock, had orders from Major Gen. Wallace, general commander of the field, to retreat, but declined to retire until compulsory circumstances required it.

To this battle, and the Union troops who fought it, is due the safety of the National Capital and the prevention of much wholesale devastation of loyal property, which would undoubtedly have accompanied the unhindered advance of Early's army on the 9th of July, 1864.

## LIST OF CASUALTIES, AT MONOCACY, MARYLAND, JULY 9th, 1864.

### COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.—WOUNDED.

*Company C*—Captain George W. Guss, severely.

### ENLISTED MEN.—WOUNDED.

#### *Company A.*

1st Sergt. J. B. Heebner, sev'ly	Pvt. W. Coppleberger, severely
Pvt. Wm. Rodenbaugh, mort'ly	" David M. Snyder, "
" Henry Colter, "	

#### *Company B.*

Corp. Emory McGuinn, mort'ly	Pvt. Wm. Strasbaugh, severely
" Amos M. Snyder, sev'ly	" John M. Tate, "
Pvt. Elias Stonesifer, "	

*Company C.*

Corp. Jason T. Butler, sever'ly		Pvt. Ab. B. Markley, slightly
" S. B. Salsburg, slightly		

*Company E.*

Pvt. Jos. O. Blackburn, severely

*Company F.*

Corp. Harvey Shaffer, slightly		Pvt. George Goller, severely
Pvt. James Kellerman, "		" Dan. M. Ball, "
" William Ernest, severely		

*Company G.*

1st Sgt. N. G. Wilson, severely		Pvt. Benjamin Keller, slightly
Pvt. Samuel Wiegel, "		" Henry Ziegler, "
" Jacob Klepper, "		Corp. Amos Huffman, mortally
" Theodore Klepper, "		" C. P. K. Walter, slightly
" Wm. Sarbaugh, slightly		

*Company H.*

Pvt. John McCammon, severely		Pvt. Simon Sigafos, slightly
" Frank Smith, "		

*Company I.*

Pvt. Wm. Eppright, mortally		Pvt. John F. Hay, severely
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*Company K.*

Corp. Israel C. Wood, severely		Pvt. Henry C. Sigfried, sever'ly
" Samuel Hallman, "		" Peter L. Fluck, "
Pvt. Ed. D. Ervin, "		

## MISSING.

*Company C*—Sergt. Benjamin Uebele, Private William Carson.

*Company D*—Privates Thos. J. Miller, Charles Summerville, George Gillem.

*Company E*—Private Daniel Correll.

*Company G*—Private Alfred Livingston.

*Company I*—Private Joseph Rohr.

## COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.—CAPTURED.

*Company K*—Capt. Richard T. Stewart.

## ENLISTED MEN.—CAPTURED.

*Company B*—Private George Hemminger.

*Company D*—Sergt. Wm. W. Ferguson; Pvt. William H. Ling.

*Company E*—Privates William Bailey, Geo. R. Imbler, William Stineman, Isaac Gordon, Charles Gardner.

*Company F*—Corporal Martin T. Foor.

*Company G*—Corporals William H. Reed, Amos F. Hummer; Privates Amos B. Meals, Jonas Freet.



*Company II*—Corporal John Rymond; Privates Henry Hilbert, Abraham K. Wismer.

*Company I*—Corporal Joseph Scattergood; Private Augustus Schodstadt.

*Company K*—Privates Sylvester Merrick, John D. Kelly.

#### RECAPITULATION.

Wounded, 1 officer and 38 men.	Total,	39
Captured, 1   "   " 20   "   "		21
Missing,               8   "   "		8
Total,       2               66	Aggregate,	68

The Division marched to Ellicott's Mills, arriving there on the 10th, and on the 11th moved by rail to Baltimore City, where it encamped in Druid Hill Park until the 14th. The command was on that day transported to Washington, and upon reaching there pushed on up the Potomac to join the remainder of the 6th Corps which had been shifted from the Army of the Potomac in time to meet Early's army at the outer defenses of the Capital, and compel his immediate retreat. We forded the river at Edwards' Ferry on the 16th, and on the 17th overtook Gen. Wright's command, consisting of his own and detachments of the 8th and 19th Corps, in the neighborhood of Leesburg.

On the 18th the enemy was found on the west bank of the Shenandoah river, near Snickers' Gap, and a skirmish, which involved some of the

8th Corps troops, took place, which, however, was of no decisive importance.

After some delay the river was crossed on the 20th, and the command pushed forward to Berryville; but failed to find the enemy, who, it was reported, had gone southward. During the night the forces were ordered to countermarch and return to Washington.

We reached Georgetown, D. C., on the 23d and encamped. Orders were received that an immediate movement might be expected, and rumors were circulated that we were to be re-shipped to Petersburg, which, it has since been made known, was the intention of the Government. On the 26th Gen. Wright moved his command on the road to Harper's Ferry, by way of Frederick City, and reached the Ferry on the 29th. Another mysterious retrograde movement was ordered on the 30th, and the last day of July found us again at Frederick City.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY.

About the 5th of August Lieut. General Grant visited the troops then encamped near Monocacy, and ordered Maj. General David Hunter, who had command of the department, to concentrate his forces in the vicinity of Harper's Ferry, and prepare for active movements.

The railroads were employed to effect this purpose, and the 138th Regiment, with its proper command, reached the point of destination on the 6th. Orders were now issued by the War Department creating a new command, to be known as the Middle Military Division, to include the Susquehanna, Middle, West Virginia, and Washington Departments. Maj. General P. H. Sheridan was assigned to its administration, and at the same time assumed the immediate control of the troops in West Virginia, relieving General Hunter.

A force of cavalry, sent from the Army of the Potomac, being added to the 6th, 8th, and 19th Corps of infantry, the whole, commanded by a

General of great energy and ability, made quite an efficient army; and from the date of this reorganization there was hope for the redemption of the Valley, which, from the opening of the war, had been a field of harvest and support, and a grand avenue of invasion for the enemy. After being well equipped and supplied, the army under Sheridan commenced its first *feeling* movement against Early, on the 10th of August.

Without any opposition of consequence the march was conducted by way of Charlestown, Berryville and Winchester, to near Strasburg, where, on the night of the 12th, the rebels were found in position on Fisher's Hill. Some slight skirmishing here occurred, but no general engagement ensued. On the contrary a retrograde movement, said to have been caused by the coming of rebel reinforcements from Richmond, by way of Front Royal, with the design to outflank our position before Strasburg, was ordered on the night of the 16th, and the army retraced its route of advance as far as Charlestown. At this place, on the 21st, our pickets were surprised by a sudden attack by the enemy, which resulted in some fighting. Our position was held until night, when Gen. Sheridan retired to Halltown, about four miles from Harper's Ferry. By so

doing it was intended to invite a further advance and possibly an attack from the enemy, with our troops in a position well selected and fortified ; but the rebels kept at a respectful distance. Our forces advanced to Charlestown on the 28th, and on the 29th the Cavalry, under Merritt, supported by Rickett's Division, had a conflict with a rebel force, near Smithfield, in which the latter was defeated. A general advance was made on the 3d of September to Berryville, where the troops encamped and intrenched. Early's army was at this time just lying west of Opequan Creek, about six miles distant, and the outposts of the respective armies were soon established in nearness for mutual observation. The army was permitted to enjoy the quiet of this location until the morning of September 19th, when at 2 A. M. the entire command marched out to open in earnest the campaign in the Valley. Early's outposts were first encountered by the Cavalry under Torbert, at the Opequan, about daylight, and driven in upon their main force with a success that enabled our infantry to cross the stream without difficulty, and to secure a position favorable for formation. A line was taken up about twelve miles from Berryville, and about two and a-half from Winchester, stretching across the Alexan-

dria and Winchester turnpike. The 6th and 19th Corps were first deployed, and about 10 A. M. an advance was ordered, before Crook's (8th) Corps had reached the field. These two commands, in conjunction with the cavalry, made a bold demonstration, which was successful at the onset in breaking the enemy's lines; but the connexion between the left of the 19th and the right of the 6th Corps was not properly preserved. An unprotected gap which permitted the penetration of the enemy was thus formed, and the exposed flanks of either Corps were points of imminent danger to the safety of the army. The rebels moved a flanking force to seize the advantages offered, and to avert possible disaster our lines were withdrawn, reformed and strengthened by the reinforcement of the 8th Corps, after which the attack was renewed on Sheridan's never-failing battle-plan. The three infantry corps were moved in solid body against the enemy's front, while the cavalry on either front "struck well out," and came thundering down upon his rear. Then broken, disconcerted, defeated and driven, Early's army commenced a *skedaddle* of the wildest disorder, and the day, with Winchester and large captures of prisoners and property, was ours. This engagement was short, sharp and de-

cisive, and the losses of both armies were severe. It was, however, one of great importance, for, besides other advantages gained, it established Sheridan in the mastery of the Valley, and gave his army the respect and fear of their enemies. The night of the 19th was spent in bivouac in the outskirts of Winchester, and at dawn of the 20th the army pushed onward about 13 miles to Strasburg, where, at Fisher's Hill, Early was found intrenched and ready to give battle. On the 21st our troops were so disposed of as to confront his lines within skirmishing distance, and during the night earthworks were established.

On the morning of the 22d Gen. Sheridan and his corps commanders were closely inspecting the situation and devising means by which a dislodgement of the rebels could be accomplished. Their position was a natural one of great strength and advantage, and both their flanks rested on the mountains—the eastern and western boundaries of the Valley. These points of superiority inspired the enemy with some degree of confidence, but failed to retard our success. In the afternoon the 6th and 19th Corps were formed as for a direct assault; skirmishers were advanced, and all the artillery of the command trained on the enemy's trenches. Crook's 8th Corps was by a



mountain road secretly stealing upon the left of the rebel position, and by 4½ P. M. it was reached and "doubled."

Rickett's Division, on the left of the 8th Corps, now charged and captured an important rebel fort mounting about a dozen guns, which promoted Crook's success, and enabled the whole army to "swing in" and sweep the works from left to right. In a brief space the "army of invaders" was effectually dislodged from their boasted "haven of security," again flying southward in disorganized retreat, and had abandoned to our possession cannon, small arms, battle-flags and prisoners in great numbers. This second victory can be attributed to skillful planning and quickness of execution, as well as to the effect the previous engagement at Opequan had upon the *morale* of the enemy. It was intended by Early to have held Fisher's Hill at all hazards, but when the "ever-dreaded flank" was turned, the rebel army could have been no more easily held than a whirlwind.

A story obtained circulation that after this battle, upon an occasion when "old Jubal Early" was riding by on the march, some of his soldiers whose provisions were about exhausted cried after him, "Rations! Rations!" to which "the Apple-

jack General" turned in his saddle, and in reply hissed with his most bitter accents, "Fisher's Hill! Fisher's Hill!"

The Regimental Commander's official report of the operations from the 19th to the 22d of September inclusive was as follows:—

HD. QRS., 138th PA. VOLS. }  
September — 1864. }

\* \* \* \* \*

In compliance with orders received I have the honor to report the following operations of this command in the engagements of Opequan and Fisher's Hill:—

At 2 A. M. 19th inst. we broke camp at Clifton, and marched to the Winchester turnpike, thence towards the Opequan which we reached shortly after daylight, and formed in line of battle within  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles of Winchester. This regiment constituted a portion of the first line of the Brigade, and when the advance was ordered, moved forward in connexion with the 6th Maryland and 67th Pa. regiments on our right and left.

When the lines of the Corps fell back after the first charge, the order of battle was preserved as well as possible, but some confusion existed. The troops were easily rallied and when the grand advance was made, we moved forward under a terrible fire of artillery and musketry, driving the rebels before us, inflicting and suffering severe losses. We shared in the pursuit until darkness ensued—and bivouaced for the night near Winchester. During the engagement,

Col. McClennan, commanding the regiment on foot, became exhausted from the effects of over exertion and a late sickness, and was compelled to relinquish the command to me.

The behavior of officers and men was highly creditable. Captains John E. Stuckey, James H. Walter, John W. Feight and Lieut. J. P. Iredell fell severely wounded, while in the faithful performance of their duties. Our losses amounted to three killed, thirty-seven wounded, and three missing. On the 20th the command marched to near Strasburg, and on the 21st this Division moved to the extreme right of our lines, where after considerable skirmishing a position was taken and fortified. On the 22d about noon we moved from our works to the right and advanced up a ravine towards the rebel left, where we lay in front of a strong rebel earthwork until 5 P. M., when a charge was ordered and made simultaneously with a movement of the 8th Corps, which turned the enemy's left flank, and resulted in his utter rout; the capture of artillery, prisoners, &c., and another glorious victory for Sheridan's army—with but trifling loss. Our regiment bore an honorable part in this battle; its colors reached the rebel works third in order; and about seventy-five prisoners were taken and accredited it. Many others were passed by and fell into hands of other troops, as the men were more anxious to follow up the pursuit of the flying enemy than to tarry with captures. I can recommend the entire regiment engaged, for general good conduct, but would not attempt to single out individual cases of bravery, for all participated with good will and

determination. Our losses were, one killed and three wounded.

Very Respectfully,  
Your Obedient Servant,  
LEWIS A. MAY,  
*Major Commanding Regiment.*

## LIST OF CASUALTIES, AT OPEQUAN, VA., SEPTEMBER 19, 1864.

### COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.—WOUNDED.

*Company D*—Captain John S. Stuckey.  
*Company F*—Captain John W. Feight.  
*Company G*—Captain James H. Walter.  
*Company K*—Lieut. Jonathan P. Iredell.

### ENLISTED MEN.—KILLED.

*Company A*—Private Peter S. Eddleman.  
*Company H*—Private James B. Green.  
*Company I*—Private James Wilson.

### WOUNDED.

#### *Company A.*

Sergt. Daniel A. Reiff.		Pvt. James Nolan,
Corp. P. A. Smith, color bearer		" David Updegrave.
Pvt. Abram Gotwaltz.		

#### *Company B.*

Corp. Peter Thorn.		Pvt. Ephraim Herr.
" Henry J. Wortz.		

#### *Company C.*

Sergt. Charles H. Fitzgerald.		Pvt. Edmund H. Smith.
Pvt. Charles W. Makens.		" Jacob H. Dotts.

#### *Company D.*

Corp. John B. Hammer.		Pvt. Moses Shroyer.
Pvt. William Lucas.		

#### *Company E.*

Pvt. H. H. King.		Pvt. William G. Riffle.
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#### *Company F.*

Corp. Fred. G. Ritchie.		Pvt. Oliver Lowery.
Pvt. Hiram May.		" George W. Holler.
" Joseph Shroyer.		" John Valentine.

	<i>Company G.</i>	
Pvt. Joseph Beck.		Pvt. William Sarbaugh.
	<i>Company H.</i>	
Sergt. Joseph B. Heaton.		Pvt. Lewis R. Smith.
Pvt. Dennis Strouse.		" Samuel Hillborn.
	<i>Company I.</i>	
Sergt. George W. Shoffner.		Pvt. Edmund Dalbey.
	<i>Company K.</i>	
1st Sergt. Stokes C. Bodder.		Pvt. Hiram M. Puff.

## MISSING.

*Company A*—Private Adam Hersh.  
*Company E*—Private Samuel Clark.  
*Company D*—Private Nathaniel James.

## RECAPITULATION.

Commissioned officers, wounded,	4	Total,	4
Enlisted men, killed,	2	"	3
" wounded,	33	"	33
" missing,	3	"	3
			<hr/>
Aggregate,			43

## LIST OF CASUALTIES AT THE BATTLE OF FISHER'S HILL, VA., SEPT. 22d, 1864.

KILLED.—Corp. Daniel Dewalt, Co. B.  
 WOUNDED.\*—Pvt. Tobias Shaffer, Co. F.

The pursuit of the rebel army after its defeat at Fisher's Hill was continued during the night succeeding the battle, and afterwards with such vigor that Early was overtaken on the 24th at Mt. Jackson, where he made a feeble show of resistance. A determined advance of our troops soon

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\*An imperfection in the records of the Regiment omits the names of two enlisted men wounded in this battle, and prevents their publication.

caused a resumption of his retreat which, though hasty, was not without organization and a rear guard to cover it. The three corps of Sheridan's army marched in parallel columns, preceded by a line of skirmishers, of which, in the front of the 6th Corps, the 138th Regiment constituted a part. Some ten miles were marched in this wise, until about 5 P. M., when near a little village called New Market a skirmish resulted from a rebel freak to assume a temporary stand. Our Regiment had a brisk share in this collision, and incurred a few casualties, among which were Sergt. John Dalbey, commanding Company A, Corp. James E. Over, Co. E, and a few others whose injuries were slight. The army moved to Harrisonburg, and encamped on the 25th, and the enemy at that time was supposed to have gone in the direction of Gordonsville.

The movements in the Valley so far had been of the most active character. A formidable enemy had been twice defeated in pitched battle and driven a distance upwards of one hundred miles, within the short period of a week. This exacted great endurance from the army, but elated with success and having unbounded confidence in their leader, the troops yielded cheerfully to all requirements of the campaign. On the 6th of Oc-

tober the army moved northward, the further pursuit of Early being recognized as impracticable on account of dangerous isolation from our base of supplies, which would necessarily follow the extension of a route already harassed with severity by numerous and daring guerillas.

Before, and attending this movement, a system of destruction was established by Gen. Sheridan in pursuance of proper military authority, which was calculated to render the Valley useless in point of support to the Rebellion. As far as it could be conveniently done, the live stock of the country was driven off with the army. Barns, mills, manufactories, granaries and store houses, were destroyed by fire, and the crops and provisions which escaped the fate of these buildings, were either spared to the use of their owners, or appropriated to that of our troops. This wholesale devastation was a severe blow upon the inhabitants of this stricken valley, but harsh as it may have seemed, it was a necessary measure to reduce the resources of the rebel armies and to substitute suffering for bloodshed. There were some depredations committed which reflected no credit upon civilized warfare, but for these unprincipled men (who are found not only in all



armies, but in all collections of mankind,) are solely responsible.

The march was concluded by October 9th when the army halted at Strasburg. On this day a force of the enemy's cavalry, which had followed our withdrawal from Harrisonburg, was attacked and dispersed by Gen. Torbert's command, with considerable loss in cannon and prisoners. The 6th Corps marched to Front Royal on the 10th, where it encamped, leaving the remainder of the command in the neighborhood of Fisher's Hill. At daylight, October 13th, the Corps moved with orders to report at Alexandria, and proceeded as far as Millwood, near Ashby's Gap—some sixteen miles. Upon our arrival here the march to Alexandria was recalled, and at 3 A. M. the next day we were ordered to return with dispatch to Sheridan near Middletown.

We found the troops in camp on the banks of Cedar creek, and ascertained that the rebels had been making a demonstration, and were then in occupancy of Fisher's Hill.

The army was now formed in the order of a semi-circle, the 19th Corps in the centre, with the 6th and 8th Corps on the right and left.

In the distance the smoke from Early's encampments, and the movements of his signal corps at

the stations on Fisher's Hill and adjoining heights, were plainly discernible, and as if "waiting for something to turn up" the two armies thus remained with about three miles between.

An offensive movement on the part of the rebel army was the least expected of all improbable things, but an interposition of that Power which governs the tide of war and the fate of the world came upon us and broke the quiet which pervaded the Valley.

On the morning of October 19th the unsuspecting troops of Sheridan's army were aroused by heavy discharges of musketry, from the direction of Gen. Crook's position on the extreme left, and the fact that Early had, by a movement of great secrecy, stole a night march upon our flank, turned it, and was aiming at the defeat—by surprise—of our army, dawned upon our minds with the coming of the day. Crook's command, being out-flanked, began to retreat without regard to organization, and its disorder soon spread to the 19th Corps.

The rebels were thereby enabled to sweep the earthworks and gain nearly all the artillery in position. The 6th Corps was formed and moved with rapidity to the centre and rear of the main army, and established as a bulwark against the

confusion of the other troops and the advance of the enemy. They pushed desperately upon us, and the embarrassment caused by stragglers running through our ranks, and the first fierce shock of the rebel assault, combined, made even the sturdy lines of the 6th Corps to quiver; but they were preserved unbroken. Major Gen. Wright who had command of the Army (Gen. Sheridan being absent) rode along the lines in the face of the rebel storm, and with the blood trickling from a flesh wound in the face, enjoined his men to stand fast, telling them that upon their conduct depended the result of the battle.

Brig. General Ricketts commanded the Corps, and with his wonted faithfulness was at the head of his troops until dangerously wounded and borne from the field. Col. J. W. Keifer who, throughout the Valley campaign had commanded the 2d Brigade, had charge of the 3d Division, while the Brigade was led by Col. W. H. Ball, 122d Ohio Vols. After a few hours' severe fighting our lines were slowly withdrawn to the north of Middletown, a distance of perhaps two miles, where a temporary line was taken up and fortified.

The rebels were now checked and held at bay, and an opportunity was offered to gather together stragglers, and reform scattered commands.

About 3 P. M. Gen. Sheridan arrived upon the field, and after surveying the situation at once ordered a simultaneous advance of the several corps. As he rode along the line he told the troops they must retake their old camping grounds, and a general manifestation of confidence and willingness in enthusiastic cheering was their reply.

The attack was made, the enemy routed, and the ground lost by the ill fortunes of the morning regained. The whole army pursued as far as Strasburg, and the cavalry until after dark continuing it further by their unexampled dash and energy, completely demoralized the enemy. His troops were scattered in all directions, and his trains and artillery were so confused and tangled together as to effectually block up the route of retreat. Upwards of sixty cannon, with great trains of wagons and ambulances, and thousands of prisoners were captured; and the Battle of Cedar Creek, although its beginning was dark and disastrous, had a glorious termination.

The remnant of Early's army fled towards Staunton, never to appear or be heard of again as an invading body, and our forces remained in undisturbed possession of the Valley. In the battle of the 19th the 138th Regiment, com-

manded by Major Lewis A. May, bore a full and active participance, and during part of the day served upon the skirmish line.

## LIST OF CASUALTIES AT THE BATTLE OF CEDAR CREEK, VA., OCT. 19, 1864.

### COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.—WOUNDED.

*Company C*—1st Lieut. Samuel W. Cloward, severely.

*Company D*—1st Lieut. John A. Gump, mortally.

*Company H*—1st Lieut. Wm. B. Lovett, severely.

*Company F*—2d Lieut. Martin S. Bortz, slightly.

### ENLISTED MEN.—KILLED.

*Company A*—Private Sylvester Staley.

*Company E*—Private David B. Craine.

### WOUNDED.

*Company A*—Sergt. Harrison Bickel.

*Company B.*

1st Sergt. David M. McKnight. | 1st Sergt. Basil H. Norris.

*Company C.*

Corp. Jason T. Butler, | Pvt. John Knause,  
Pvt. David F. Anderson, | " Richard N. Shinn.

*Company D.*

1st. Sergt. Jonathan Snider, | Pvt. John A. Beltz.

*Company E.*

Sergt. Daniel Beard, | Pvt. Henry Speck,  
Corp. Abraham Carpenter, | " Samuel Ridenbaugh.

*Company F.*

Sergt. John Geller, | Pvt. Wm. Feight,  
" Joseph Barclay, | " Wm. Kelly,  
Corp. Fred. G. Ritchey, | " Daniel M. Ball,  
Pvt. E. B. Miller, | " Abram Miller.

*Company G.*

Corp. Isaac E. Cook, | Pvt. Wm. F. Sadler,  
" C. P. K. Walker, | " John Cleaver.  
Pvt. Henry Ziegler,

*Company H.*

Pvt. Lewis R. Smith.

<i>Company I.</i>	
Corp. Staats V. D. Wack,	Corp. Sylvester W. Snyder.
<i>Company K.</i>	
Corp. Barclay Kenderdine	Pvt. George Paulis,
Pvt. Wm. Biddle,	" Eli Sabold,
" George Dutter,	" Henry Kulp.
" Charles Magee,	

## RECAPITULATION.

Commissioned officers, wounded,	-	4
Enlisted men, killed,	- -	2
" wounded,	- -	86
		<hr/>
Total,		42

Brig. Gen. T. Seymour (captured at the battle of the Wilderness, May 6th, while in command of the 2d Brigade) having been exchanged as a prisoner of war, rejoined the Corps on the 28th of October, and was assigned by virtue of rank in the absence of Gen. Ricketts to the command of the 3d Division. On the 2d of November the 138th, with the 93d, 104th and 119th Penna. Regiments were selected from the 6th Corps, organized as a Provisional Brigade and sent to Philadelphia, under the command of Col. I. C. Bassett, of the 82d P. V.

This detachment marched to Martinsburg, from which point it was shipped by rail and reached Philadelphia on the 5th.

Until after the Presidential election, we were stationed at Camp Cadwallader in that city, and

on the 11th started to return to Sheridan's army. The 138th rejoined its proper command in camp about three miles south of Winchester, and in that location remained until about the 1st of December when the 6th Corps was ordered to be transferred from the Shenandoah Valley to Gen. Grant's position before Petersburg.

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## CHAPTER XIV.

### PETERSBURG, AND THE CLOSE OF THE WAR.

The 3d day of December, 1864, saw the 138th *en-route*, by way of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, from Winchester to Washington, and on the next day it reached the Capital, and with the rest of the 3d Division, 6th Army Corps, embarked on a transport fleet, bound for City Point, which left port about noon. The trip to "the Point" consumed about thirty hours, and on the 6th the troops were moved *via* Grant's Military Railroad to the front. The 6th Corps was assigned to that portion of the lines before Petersburg then held by Warren's (5th) Corps, which command it relieved of its winter encampments and duty in the



trenches. The Corps was formed with 1st Division on the right, 3d in centre, and 2d on the left, between the 9th Corps on the north and 2d Corps on the south.

The 138th Regiment was detailed on the 7th to garrison an earthwork on the rear line of defences, near the Weldon Railroad, designated as Fort Dushane, where it established quarters for the winter. The fort was one of a chain extending from the left near Hatcher's Run toward City Point, and guarding the rear of the entire army from any raids or flanking movements which might be undertaken by the enemy. With a battery of artillery our regiment remained in this station until the season for active operations had returned, but did not escape an ample share of picket and fatigue duty, for which large details were furnished daily. The winter of 1864-65 was bleak and dreary, and the unabated vigilance they were required to preserve in the cold and inclemency of the weather, entailed much hardship on the troops of both armies.

During the holidays the regiment was remembered by some of the good people of Montgomery county in the donation of a very rich and substantial repast as a Christmas dinner, which was brought to the front by a delegation of

citizens, and spread on the gala day before "a grateful four hundred."

About the same time a beautiful stand of colors was received as a present from the "Loyal citizens of Norristown and Bridgeport, Pa.," which gave pride to every member of the command.

In acknowledgment of this latter gift an appropriate address was prepared and sent to the donors, of which the annexed is a correct copy:—

HEAD QUARTERS 138TH PENNA. VOLS., }  
BEFORE PETERSBURG, VA., Dec. 25, 1864. }

In returning to you our acknowledgments for the beautiful stand of colors and markers, which in your appreciation of our worth and the cause in which we are engaged, you have seen fit to prevent us, we find it no easy task to appropriately express ourselves.

And it is no less difficult for us to properly say to you what the occasion and subject demands; but having for nearly three years shared the trials and dangers and triumphs of our national arms, such kind acts as that of yours show to us that you are no less mindful of our sacrifices, than we are who endure them. It comforts us to be assured that not a cent from a disloyal person is in the silk composing those beautiful flags, and this practical assurance of your loyalty and appreciation of our triumphs and sacrifices nerves us to greater sacrifices and grander triumphs; and we wish to assure you that to us "patriotism still wears a countenance Divinely fair as when the first gun was fired at Sumter."

The "twin colors" symbolize two inseparable objects, our Union and our glorious old Commonwealth, and as such they present to us the history of the rise and progress of a nation, unparalleled in the annals of the world; of privations and struggles and deeds of heroic valor unequalled even by the grandest sacrifices recorded in ancient or classic story. They speak to us of long years of peace and prosperity at home and abroad, the development of our national resources to such a degree as to surpass even our most sanguine expectations, and to rival the empires of the old world, who had reached almost their acme of greatness whilst this nation was yet in its infancy.

They speak to us of our ships laden with the products of our own and other climes, carrying our commerce to every part of the globe, and opening even the heretofore sealed ports of China and Japan.

They speak to us of the addition of State after State with their teeming populations, until from thirteen stars on that field of blue, they have increased to thirty-five. They speak to us of populous and magnificent cities, thriving towns, thrifty villages, of fertile plains, valleys and hills yielding their rich products to award the labors of the husbandmen, of travel and traffic upon all our great lakes, rivers and inland seas, with networks of railroads connecting us with every part of our great country—and all this where but a few years ago stood mighty forests, and the red man held undisputed sway.

They speak to us of the home of the free, where the down-trodden and oppressed of every land and tongue have found an asylum, and by their strong

arms industry and enterprise contributed no small part towards our national greatness.

Such is briefly the history of our flag, respected by every nation as the ensign of a great and powerful people. None dared to insult it with impunity, until treason showed its hideous head in the fairest portion of our land, when it was reserved for our own countrymen and blood to trample upon, and trail our glorious emblem in the dust, and seek to destroy the noblest Government ever bequeathed to man, and rear in its stead an oligarchy having as its cornerstone a degrading system of bondage, abhorrent to every feeling of humanity and condemned by every civilized nation on the globe.

From the earliest foundation of our Government, until the inauguration of civil war, we find a portion of our fellow-citizens arrogating to themselves a species of nobility, and claiming a superiority over their fellow-citizens in other sections, *because* they held as property human flesh and blood, and used and trafficked in it as so much chattel.

The marriage relation was disregarded, and man and woman thrown together and separated, parents and children separated and scattered in different sections of the country, as the tyranny, caprice or necessities of the master demanded.

No provision was made for the education of the slave; on the contrary, in many States, laws were enacted making it a high crime to teach him to read and write, thus denying to him what was accorded to the lowest savage wherever the gospel of Christ was carried—the privilege of reading the word of God for himself.

Seemingly, the system demanded that the slave be reduced to the lowest state of ignorance, and but a step removed from the brute, in order that his master might rule supreme and exact from him the most abject and willing obedience.

No citizen was permitted to discuss the merits of slavery unless he could endorse the "Divine institution" and speak in its favor, and it was only necessary to incur even a taint of suspicion of enmity against it, to bring down on ones head all the brutality and violence of mob law.

Neither age nor sex were a protection against the refined cruelty of this *superior* race. Thus practically were banished from the loveliest portions of our land, free speech, and a free press, and in their stead the soil was polluted with the curse of slavery, in its worst form. Such is the record of a people who, without provocation or cause, and without waiting for a single overt act upon the part of the man who had been called upon by the suffrages of his fellow-citizens to preside over the destinies of the nation, madly plunged the country into civil war, insulted the old flag, sought to destroy the Union, and made love of country and every other consideration subordinate to the one effort of perpetuating human slavery.

With generous forbearance, a great and powerful section yielded every point claimed by the minority, in order to preserve inviolate the Constitution of our fathers and perpetuate the Union of the States, trusting to time and a just God to rid them of the incubus of slavery; and it is their proud record that concessions after concessions have been made for the

sake of preserving the Union, and transmitting to posterity a country great and powerful.

Animated by the desire to save the Union, a portion of the loyal men of the nation sprang to arms to avenge the insult offered to our flag, and to defend the sacred liberties purchased by the blood of illustrious sires, and to maintain the "Union, forever, one and inseparable." The struggle has been long, fierce and sanguinary; privations and sufferings have been endured beyond the power of pen to describe, and sorrow and mourning have been carried into once happy homes; but from every section of the land are heard glorious shouts of victory—the sure harbingers of a speedy and final triumph. It was not expected that every citizen should share the dangers and privations of the battle-field.

It was necessary that every branch of industry should be attended to, and that all the wealth and resources of the country should be developed; and we, as soldiers, desire to say that nobly have the loyal citizens at home seconded the efforts of the soldier in the field. Money and material have been poured forth in lavish expenditure, and by every means have the horrors of war been mitigated. Side by side will be handed down the heroic deeds of soldier and the no less noble deeds of the loyal citizen in caring for and encouraging him in the performance of his duty, and history will present no nobler record than the recital of individual and collective exertions for the soldier's welfare.

Loyal citizens of Norristown and Bridgeport! we are proud of your approbation, and you could have presented us with no higher mark of your esteem,



than the noble gift of which we are the proud recipients, for next to our God and our Bible, the flag of our country appeals to our deepest reverence and devotion. We know its history, we know what we are fighting for, and we feel assured that a righteous God has pronounced our cause just, and has stamped the seal of His approval upon our efforts. We cannot, however, find words strong enough to express our deep condemnation of the conduct of those cravens, who, enjoying all the comforts of home, and in the midst of peace and plenty, have sneered at and sought to bring reproach upon the efforts of the Government and of the soldiers in the field to suppress this unholy rebellion. For them the achievements which have brought renown to our arms have been failures, and in the conduct of our enemies they have seen everything to approve, whilst the Government and its soldiers have never received their co-operation or support.

Too cowardly to go where their sympathies are, and to join the ranks of our brave enemies, they content themselves with enjoying the protection and security afforded by a magnanimous Government, and in return for this revile and seek to cripple the Government that protects them.

To complete the sum total of their shame, they endeavored to disfranchise the soldier, and deprive him of having a voice in the administration of the Government for which he was pouring out his life-blood to preserve.

We have been told that we are largely indebted to the efforts of the loyal ladies for the magnificent gift presented to us.



We need not record the deeds of women in behalf of their country; they have become a part of our national history. Southern women boast of their sacrifice and home-spun dresses, endured to support an unholy cause; but whilst treason has blunted every noble feeling of their nature, and called forth unwomanly traits, we point with pride to the culture and refinement of our fair country-women, and to the exhibition of all the loveliest phases that adorn the character of woman, called forth by their devotion to a just and holy cause. Mothers, like the Spartans of old, have bid their sons go forth to battle for the right and return with their shield, or on it. Wives and sisters have offered up devoted husbands and loving brothers on the altar of their country.

The fair maidens of the land have not hesitated to give their consent when their lovers, obedient to the calls of duty, asked their approbation.

Far away on the battle-fields and hospitals of our country, your loved ones, the pride of households, have died the patriot's death.

When the news that a great battle was in progress reached you, seated in your homes, your first thoughts were of him, and anxious were the hours spent until your worst fears were realized or your hopes confirmed. In the camp, on the battle-field, in the hospital, among the dead and dying, wherever there is human suffering, there the gentle hand of woman presses the fevered brow, and offers those ministrations which only *woman* can offer, whilst fair ones at home are busy from morn until night in devising and carrying into effect everything that can contribute to our welfare.

Your words of cheer come to us in the camp, on the bivouac, around the camp-fire, on the lonely picket post, and on the battle-field, and we go forth better men responsive to your noble influence.

Whilst every day we are the recipients of substantial evidences of your interest in our behalf, such as the splendid gift from the loyal citizens of Norristown and Bridgeport, we wish to assure those loyal citizens, that it shall always be our aim never to bring reproach upon our flag or do an act which shall cause them to regret their manifesting in this manner the appreciation in which they regard our past conduct.

We cannot close this without a reference to the tattered ensign around which we have rallied on so many battle-fields, and which will be submitted to the view of the loyal citizens of Norristown and Bridgeport.

We part from the old flag with mournful feelings, yet proud that no blush of shame need mantle our cheeks in recalling its record. Faded, bullet-riddled and torn, it speaks for itself where it has been.

Our decimated ranks show how many have fallen in its defense. It has guided us in many battles, and never has it been carried back in dishonor. Our dead sleep beneath the soil of Virginia, from the banks of the Potomac to Petersburg; on the battle-field of Monocacy, fought to save the Capital of our Country, and then again from the Potomac through the Shenandoah Valley, which under "glorious Sheridan" was redeemed from the invader's grasp.

We miss our noble dead! In our ranks and in every part of our land the *living* bear honorable scars received in defense of that old flag. And now we

desire to embody in the following resolution the sentiments we feel towards those who have thus honored us with the gift which has called forth this address:

*Whereas*, The loyal citizens of Norristown and Bridgeport, Pa., have presented to the 138th Penna. Vols., a set of colors and markers which for beauty are unrivalled in the army, therefore,

*Resolved*, That we return to those loyal citizens our liveliest gratitude and most profound thanks, and assure them that having successfully carried and followed the old colors through the greatest battles of the war, we hereby pledge ourselves that, if our future conduct may be judged of by the past, these, our new and beautiful colors, will be carried in triumph wherever we may be led in the sacred cause in which we are engaged.

M. R. McCLENNAN, *Col. Commanding Regiment.*

CHARLES E. CADY, *Surgeon.*

SIMON DICKERHOOF, *Captain Co. E.*

JAMES B. HEEBNER, *Captain Co. A.*

HENRY C. GROSSMAN, *1st Lieut. Co. B.*

THOMAS C. THORNTON, *Asst. Surgeon.*

*Committee on behalf of the Regiment.*

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The following promotions of officers were made during the year 1864:—

Surgeon Charles E. Cady, from Assistant Surgeon, January 22d, 1864.

Lieut. and Regimental Qr. Master David L. McKenzie, from Commissary Sergt. July 6th, 1864.

*Company A.*—Captain James B. Heebner, from

1st Sergeant, December 2d, 1864; 1st Lieut. John Dalbey, from Sergeant, Dec. 2d, 1864.

*Company B.*—Capt. George A. Earnshaw, from 1st Lieut., November 30th, 1864; 1st Lieut. H. C. Grossman, from 2d Lieut., Nov. 30th, 1864; 2d Lieut. H. C. Grossman, from Sergeant Major, April 9th, 1864.

*Company C.*—1st Lieut. Timothy Kane, from Sergeant Major, Dec. 1st, 1864.

*Company D.*—1st Lieut. Oliver Horton, from 2d Lieut., Dec. 1st, 1864.

*Company E.*—1st Lieut. Thomas A. Prideaux, from 2d Lieut., July 1st, 1864; 2d Lieut. Reuben W. Cook, from 1st Sergeant, July 1st, 1864.

*Company F.*—1st Lieut. Martin S. Bortz, from 2d Lieut., Dec. 1st, 1864.

*Company I.*—Capt. Jonathan T. Rorer, from 1st Lieut., Oct. 1st, 1864; 1st Lieut. Wm. C. Ensley, from 1st Sergeant, Nov. 1st, 1864.

Appointments were also made to fill vacancies in the non-commissioned staff, to wit:—

Sergeant Major Timothy Kane, from private, Co. C, April 8th, 1864.

Sergeant Major Osceola Lewis, from private, Co. I, Dec. 1st, 1864.

Commissary Sergeant Frank Ramsey, from private, Co. A, July 6th, 1864.

Chief Musician Lawrence Defibaugh, from musician, Co. E, Feb. 3d, 1864.

Chief Musician William Earl, from musician, Co. I, Sept. 1st, 1864.

The strength of the regiment at the close of 1864, was—

Present,—18 commissioned officers and 391 enlisted men. Total, 409.

Absent,—9 commissioned officers and 202 enlisted men. Total, 211.

Aggregate,—Present and absent, 620.

From the time of the arrival of the 6th Corps from the Shenandoah Valley, the comparative quiet of the armies before Petersburg was unbroken except by petty demonstrations and picket quarrels, until the 29th of March, 1865, when a general movement of all the troops operating against Richmond was inaugurated. The Cavalry Corps, led by Major Gen. Sheridan in person, which had joined Gen. Grant after a series of raids upon the inland communications of the rebel Capital, moved with the 2d and 5th Corps towards the enemy's right. While these troops operated in that direction with the aim to turn the rebel flank and to extend and weaken the enemy's lines, the main line of works from the Appomattox to Hatcher's Run, was held by the 9th and

6th Corps, and a detachment from the Army of the James commanded by Major Gen. Ord. The movement on the left was not readily successful, on account of bad weather and other causes, and, until the 1st of April, when at the battle of Five Forks the enemy was badly worsted by General Sheridan's troops, seemed to make slow if not unfavorable progress. On the night of this day all the batteries in the front of Parke's and Wright's Corps were opened upon the enemy, and the troops were marshaled for an assault. The 6th Corps, formed by Divisions in order of numbers from right to left, occupied the centre of the attacking force, and in three lines of battle was prepared for the onset shortly after mid-night.

At 4 o'clock A. M., April 2d, when the signal-gun was fired, "Gen. Wright penetrated the lines with his whole Corps, sweeping every thing before him, and to his left towards Hatcher's Run, capturing many guns and several thousand prisoners." (Gen. Grant's Report.)

By this successful charge, which Major General Meade, "without making any invidious distinctions between the 6th and the other Corps of the Army," termed "the decisive movement of the campaign," the rebel army was divided and in danger of immediate annihilation or capture, and



Lee hurried his troops to the inner works about Petersburg, which was closely invested at once by the entire Union army south of the Appomattox river.

COL. McCLENNAN'S OFFICIAL REPORT  
OF THE ENGAGEMENT, APRIL 2d, 1864.

HD. QRS. 138TH PA. VOLS., }  
April 2, 1865. }

*Captain:—*

I have the honor to report that my command, consisting of twelve commissioned officers and about three hundred enlisted men, reported to Head Quarters, 2d Brigade, 3d Division, 6th Army Corps, about midnight, 1st inst., in compliance with orders given by the Brigade Commander, and after some delay was formed as a part of the third line of battle preparatory to an assault upon the enemy's works.

The 122d Ohio Vols. joined me on the right, and the 67th Pa. on the left. The lines were established under fire of the enemy's pickets, but it was accomplished without much difficulty. About 4 A. M., at a given signal, the lines advanced in proper order, under a raking musketry and enfilading artillery fire, to the works. The difficulties found in tangled underwood and marshy ditches caused some confusion in the darkness; but the body of the third line came otherwise forward with promptness, and the colors of the several regiments were in the rebel camps almost simultaneously. After crossing the works the organi-



zation of the Brigade appeared to dissolve, and bodies of men moved in all directions in pursuit of the flying enemy.

My command advanced in a northwest direction some two miles, but after a temporary stay I marched the Regiment back to near where the rebel line was first broken, and where I found the Brigade becoming re-organized.

My regiment participated in the charge upon the rebel fort last taken by the Division, and several casualties occurred at that time. A few prisoners were taken by men of this regiment, but I am unable to report the number. Two men of Co. F penetrated the country as far as the South Side Railroad, and tore up some of the track.

While engaged in this work they encountered two rebel mounted officers, who demanded their surrender. Corp. John W. Mauk immediately shot one of the officers, and Private ——— Wolford fired at the other, but missed, and the rebel escaped. The men then came back to the regiment, and reported their adventure. It is supposed that the officer killed by Corp. Mauk was the rebel General A. P. Hill, as various reports give the circumstances of his death as similar to those of this case. I have the honor to commend both these men for their daring bravery, and to ask that they be suitably rewarded. The general conduct of officers and men was very creditable, but other than those above mentioned I have none to specially recommend for promotion or reward.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Regiment shared in the movements of the Brigade during the day, and was not further engaged.

I am pleased to report my casualties as very slight, considering the heat of the engagement. They amounted to two officers and fourteen enlisted men wounded.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

M. R. McCLENNAN,

*Colonel Commanding Regiment.*

To Capt. W. L. SHAW, A. A. A. G.

## LIST OF CASUALTIES AT THE BATTLE OF PETERSBURG, APRIL 2d, 1864.

### WOUNDED.

Capt. James B. Heebner, Co. A, severely.

Lieut. J. P. Iredell, Co. K, slightly.

Sergt. Francis W. Slack, Co. E, severely.

“ Henry J. Worts, Co. B, severely.

“ George W. Gray, Co. E, severely.

“ D. B. Slaybaugh, Co. G, slightly.

Corp. Elias B. Stuckey, Co. D, severely.

“ Christian Kastler, Co. I, mortally.

Private Samuel L. Welde, Co. A, slightly.

“ David Updegrove, Co. A, slightly.

“ George Hellman, Co. D, severely.

“ Joseph D. Hagey, Co. I, severely.

“ Jacob Dotts, Co. C, slightly.

“ John Orr, Co. B, severely.

“ J. W. Linn, Co. B, severely.

“ J. H. Biesecker, Co. C, slightly.

On the morning of April 3d our victorious troops marched through the streets of the "Gate City" and those of Richmond, the long-disputed goal of protracted, tedious and bloody campaigns, while Lee's army was making the best of an ignominious retreat into south-western Virginia. Close pursuit by our forces was made at once, and continued by way of Amelia C. H., until on the 6th, about sixteen miles west of the latter place, the enemy was brought to a stand and Longstreet's and Ewell's rebel commands, were fought by the 6th Corps and Sheridan's cavalry, with some co-operation from the 2d Corps, under Gen. Humphreys. The field chosen by the enemy was well suited to the emergency, being an elevated position, overlooking a marshy bottom coursed by a stream known as Sailor's Creek. To reach the rebels our troops were forced to cross this difficult space and ascend the eminence beyond in face of a galling fire.

The 1st and 3d Divisions of the 6th Corps were the only infantry commands closely engaged, and they, with two Divisions of cavalry, attacked, fought and drove an enemy of greater strength from advantageous ground, and captured prisoners to an extent exceeding their own numbers.

Here again the 138th and 6th Md. regiments,

fought side by side, and made a charge which opened this battle. The troops had marched about sixteen miles on the 6th, and from 3 P. M. till dusk took part in fighting as spirited and severe as any they had before experienced.

The rebels contended stubbornly, but our soldiers, buoyed by the great successes already arrived at, and knowing that an opportunity was here presented, strove with all their might to make it a finishing stroke, which was virtually effected, for it was the last important passage at arms of the campaign which finished the Rebellion. It was willed by Providence that it should be the last fiery ordeal to be experienced by the 138th Regiment, and conscious of having given substantial aid in the advancement of the grand result, we inscribed on our roll of honor last but not least (neither to the soldier nor the cause) the battle of Sailor's Creek. The men who fought it will not forget the presence of "Phil Sheridan," Wright, Seymour and Keifer, and how well they did their duty; neither will they fail to remember the weary march, the hasty formation, the sudden charge, the awful swamp, the staggering shock, the wavering pause, the last desperate onset, and the flight and capture of an enemy, who, gathering together trooper and foot-soldier, marine and

seaman, armed with sabre and rifle, carbine and cutlass, strove in the "last ditch" to render more inglorious an infamous cause, and failing, with loss of property, blood and honor, went reeling to his final fall.

## LIST OF CASUALTIES AT SAILOR'S CREEK, APRIL 6, 1865.

### KILLED.

1st Sergt. Stokes C. Bodder, Co. K.  
Corp. Morris E. Hinkle, Co. A.  
Private E. N. Hartzell, Co. G.

### WOUNDED.

Sergt. Sylvester W. Snyder, Co. I, severely.  
Corp. James Crozier, Co. A, "  
" H. H. King, Co. E, "  
" Wm. A. Hake, Co. B, slightly.  
Pvt. Robt. H. Leas, Co. D, severely.  
" Jas. W. Undercoffler, Co. K, severely.  
" Geo. Irvin, Co. G, slightly.  
Total, 3 killed and 7 wounded.

The remnant of Lee's army now seemed to be aiming in their retreat for Lynchburg, but closely pursued by the Army of the Potomac, and harassed by Sheridan's Cavalry, its escape rendered impossible, and its fighting out of the question, three days found it checked and almost sur-

rounded, near Appomattox Court House, and its military genius, the wicked idol of a deluded people, sueing from our Lieutenant General, stipulations for a surrender of the arms (the only support of falsely claimed rights) and mock principles of a confederacy of treason.

Following the truce which was allowed, and the actual surrender which ensued, came the official announcement of the latter to the troops. Camps were at once alive with indescribable excitement: men crazed with enthusiasm, though scarcely realizing the true aspect of the situation, shouted and leaped for joy, embraced and greeted each other, tossed up hats, and sent to the heavens such cheers as never before ascended from human throats.

Batteries of artillery thundered forth the salute of welcome to the coming of peace, and in every bosom which loved a united country, from that of the generalissimo to the humblest soldier, throbbed with delight a patriotic heart. Men were proud they belonged to such an army; proud of all their military achievements and the greatness of their ultimate success; proud of their generals, their country, their flag, and themselves.

The 9th of April, 1865, was a day of victory and rejoicing to the Right, and its sun shone down

upon a Republic saved, strengthened, and perpetuated. The great work being accomplished, the surrendered war material was received and disposed of, and the grey columns of our late adversary were disbanded, and the rebel soldiers sent under parole to Southern homes. The armies of General Grant marched back to railroad communication, and for a time encamped near Burkesville.

The 6th Corps arrived at that point on the 13th, and remained until the 23d of April, when Gen. Wright was ordered to proceed to Danville with his command. A march of about one hundred and ten miles was accomplished in four days and four hours—an extraordinary achievement, which was congratulated in official orders—and the town was occupied on the 27th. The object of this movement was to be co-operative with General Sherman, but military affairs in North Carolina being brought to a satisfactory conclusion by the surrender of Johnson's army, it extended no farther.

The surrender of these, the most formidable combinations of military strength upholding the rebellion, was soon followed by the similar capitulation of all forces arrayed in hostility to the National authority throughout the country.



In a short month war had ceased its ravages, and, save one deplorable event of national bereavement, that period was teeming with cheerful developments and the happy return of a lasting and glorious Peace.

Orders were now issued to reduce the volunteer force without delay, and the armies in Virginia and North Carolina began to concentrate at Washington. The 6th Corps was transported by rail from Danville to Richmond about the 16th of May, and encamped near that city until the 24th, when it began a movement overland to Washington. After a march of about one hundred and thirty miles by way of Fredericksburg, we arrived near the Capital on the 2d of June, and laid out our last camping-grounds within sight of the city.

## CHAPTER XV.

### NAMES AND ALTERATIONS.

*List of Members of the Field and Staff, 138th Regiment Penna. Vol. Infantry, as mustered out June 23, 1865, at Washington, D. C.*

Colonel Matthew R. McClennan.  
Lieut. Col. Lewis A. May.  
Surgeon Charles E. Cady.  
Asst. Surgeon Thomas P. Tomlinson.  
Adjutant Jacob W. Cress.  
Quar. Master David L. McKenzie.  
Chaplain John W. Feight.

### NON-COMMISSIONED STAFF.

Sergt. Major Reuben Hallowell.  
Quar. Mast. Sergeant James W. Kennedy.  
Commissary Sergeant Frank Ramsey.  
Hospital Steward James G. Wells.  
Chief Musician Lawrence Defibaugh.  
“ “ William Earle.

*List of the Officers and Enlisted Men who, after the original organization and prior to the discharge of the Regiment, ceased to belong to the Field and Staff.*

Col. C. L. K. Sumwalt, dismissed March 30, 1863.  
Surgeon C. P. Herrington, honorably discharged Dec. 4, 1863.  
Chaplain J. F. Porter, “ “ June 26, 1863.  
“ James W. Curry, “ “ March 8, 1864.

*Transferred.*

Quar. Master Edward B. Moore, appointed Captain and C. S. Vols. August 4, 1864.

Asst. Surgeon Thos. C. Thornton, promoted to Surgeon of 67th Penna. Vols. April 20, 1865.

Sergt. Major H. C. Grossman, promoted to 2d Lieutenant, Co. B, April 8, 1864.

Sergt. Major Timothy Kane, promoted to 1st Lieutenant, Co. C, Dec. 1, 1864.

Sergt. Major Osceola Lewis, promoted to 1st Lieutenant, Co. I, May 16, 1865.

Com. Sergeant D. L. McKenzie, promoted to Regimental Quar Master July 5, 1864.

Total—6 officers and 4 enlisted men, discharged and transferred.

*List of Members of Company A, 138th Penna. Vols.,  
as mustered out of service June 23, 1865, at Wash-  
ington, D. C.*

## COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Capt. James B. Heebner,  
1st Lieut. John Dalbey,

2d Lieut. Daniel A. Reiff.

## SERGEANTS.

John B. Major,  
Egbert B. Buzby,  
Adam J. Schrack,

Samuel A. Moore,  
George W. Williams.

## CORPORALS.

James Crozier,  
Joseph K. Moore,  
Elbridge Griffith,  
Crary Stewart,

William H. Myers,  
Adam Hersh,  
Eugene Shearer,  
Samuel L. Welde.

## MUSICIANS.

George H. Buck,

1 Samuel Mitchell.

## PRIVATES.

Anderson, Samuel S.  
 Apple, George E.  
 Ashford, John E.  
 Bailey, John T.  
 Bean, Peter E.  
 Bankis, Reuben  
 Colflesh, Jacob  
 Colter, Jacob  
 Cooker, Franklin  
 Custer, Preston  
 Dutlinger, William  
 Davis, James W.  
 DeHaven, George  
 Evans, George W.  
 Fisher, Benjamin  
 Griffith, John H.  
 Hahn, Philip, jr.  
 Harrold, John  
 Hampton, Joseph  
 Hunter, George  
 Isett, William H.  
 Jones, Joseph W.  
 Jones, Jeremiah  
 Jones, Richard  
 Johnson, Richard M.  
 Keely, Henry S.  
 Kreible, David K.  
 Koplin, William H.

Lukens, David H.  
 Lyle, William R.  
 Lukens, William K.  
 Lynn, William  
 Miller, Isaac M.  
 Noblit, Joseph  
 Noblit, James  
 Noblit, William  
 Nolan, James  
 Nuss, Samuel  
 Ortlip, Jefferson  
 Pyle, Charles  
 Ramsey, Thomas H.  
 Royer, Horatio  
 Rinehart, Joseph  
 Rhoads, Henry C.  
 Reigle, Lewis K.  
 Schock, Jacob  
 Snyder, David M.  
 Streeper, Albert W.  
 Simpson, William  
 Updegrave, David  
 Wilde, Watson  
 Wheeler, Michael  
 Wells, Henry C.  
 Williams, George M.  
 Wilkinson, William

*List of the Officers and Enlisted men who, after the original organization and before the discharge of the company, ceased to belong to it.*

## COMMISSIONED OFFICERS—4.

Capt. M. R. McClennan, transferred; promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, September 2d, 1862.

Capt. C. Y. Fisher, discharged for disability, Sept. 17th, 1864.

Lieut. John E. Essick, died of wounds, May 11th, 1864.

Lieut. Samuel J. Yarger, dismissed, Sept. 12th, 1864.

ENLISTED MEN.—*Discharged*—10.

Sgt. H. Bickel, May 12, 1865.	Pvt. A. Cuthbertson, May 18,
" L. D. Shearer, May 12, '65.	1865.
Pvt. H. Britton, March 15, '65.	Pvt. M. Murphy, May 10, 1865.
" Wm. Coppleberger, May 12, 1865.	" A. Newcomer, Aug. 25, '63.
Pvt. B. D. Harrar, May 15, '65.	" Charles Pugh, Dec. 1st, '64.
	" Levi Ringler, Oct. 24, '63.

*Transferred*—4.

Pvt. W. T. Benner, Jan. 10, '65.	Pvt. W. H. Hunter, Ap'l 19, '64.
" F. B. Bond, Jan. 25, 1865.	" F. Ramsey, July 6, 1864.

*Died*—16.

Sergt. Davis W. Roberts, died of wounds,	June 14th, 1864.
Corp. John H. Slingluff,	" " May 6th, 1864.
" Paul A. Smith,	" " Oct. 19th, 1864.
" Maurice E. Hinkle,	" " April 6th, 1865.
Pvt. Henry Colter,	" " July 14th, 1864.
" Peter S. Eddleman,	" " Sept. 19th, 1864.
" Abraham Gotwalts,	" " Oct. 1st, 1864.
" Samuel Grubb,	" " June 9th, 1864.
" Joseph S. Hallowell,	" " disease, Dec. 11th, 1862.
" Jacob B. Jackson,	" " Nov. 25th, 1862.
" Ed. H. Linck, died while a prisoner of war,	Jan. 17th, '65
" William Magee, died of wounds,	May 9th, 1864.
" George W. Ross, died of disease,	Sept. 25th, 1863.
" William Rodenbaugh, died of wounds,	July 20th, 1864.
" Archibald Stewart,	" " June 15th, 1864.
" Sylvester Staley,	" " Oct. 19th, 1864.

*Deserted*—2.

Pvt. James Henry, from Philadelphia, Pa.,	Nov. 11th, 1864.
" Isaac P. Kennedy, from Relay House, Md.,	June 2d, 1863.

*Missing in Action.*

Pvt. Milton Streeper, at Wilderness, Va., May 6th.

*List of Members of Company B, 138th Penna. Vols.,  
as mustered out of service, June 23d, 1865, at  
Washington, D. C.*

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Capt. George A. Earnshaw,		2d Lieut. D. M. McKnight.
1st Lieut. H. C. Grossman,		

SERGEANTS.

Isaac H. Moore,		Henry J. Wortz,
Basil H. Norris,		John M. Yeagy.
Albert J. Routson,		

CORPORALS.

Peter Thorn,		Charles E. Shorb,
George E. Booth,		Nathaniel Butt,
William A. Hake,		George W. Harper,
Oliver C. Hartzell,		John Orr.

MUSICIANS.

Emory F. K. Will,		John Davidson.
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WAGONER.—Stephen Currens.

PRIVATES.

Bennett, Joseph H.		Hemminger, George
Bormuth, John		Hamilton, Marcus J.
Biesecker, William P.		Herr, Ephraim
Biesecker, Jacob H.		Hennig, John
Beyers, Christian		Hersh, Henry L.
Crabbs, John L.		Heintzelman, William
Crouse, John T.		Kitzmiller, David F.
Cover, Winfield		Kennel, Samuel G.
Dewalt, Alexander		Koch, John
Deardoff, Peter		Krause, William D.
Detrick, Amos		Kitzmiller, Daniel S.
Eply, William H.		Linn, Joseph W.
Eltz, William		Lawrence, George W.
Fallon, Thomas		McClure, John
Flenner, James		Meyers, John A. B.
Groft, Thaddeus F.		Miller, Israel J.
Houdyshell, Zachariah		Miller, George W.
Houghtelin, William H.		Miller, John

Miller, Ephraim  
Nary, John P.  
Plank, Oliver F.  
Rahmon, Fritz  
Strubinger, John A.  
Stonesifer, Elias

Sweeney, William O.  
Strausbaugh, William  
Tate, Solomon A.  
Weikert, John T.  
Wagamon, John

*List of the Officers and Enlisted men who, after the original organization, and prior to the discharge of the company, ceased to belong to it.*

#### COMMISSIONED OFFICERS—4.

Capt. John F. McCreary, discharged Sept. 12th, 1864.  
2d Lieut. Harvey W. McKnight, discharged Dec. 16th, 1862.  
2d Lieut. J. C. Levelsberger, discharged Feb. 26th, 1864.  
1st Lieut. Jacob W. Cress, transferred; appointed Adjutant August 30th, 1862.

#### ENLISTED MEN.—*Discharged*—11.

1st Sgt. J. G. Frey, June 6, '65.	Pvt. J. A. Kitzmiller, Sept. 20,
Corp. A. S. Snyder, Feb. 16, '65.	1864.
Pvt. W. Harmon, Oct. 24, 1863.	Pvt. L. Hummelbaugh, March
" L. W. Detrick, Feb. 2, '64.	25, 1865.
" F. Barbraham, March 15,	Pvt. Albert Bey, May 15, 1865.
1864.	" D. E. Cress, June 6, 1865.
Pvt. J. A. Miller, Sept. 27, '64.	" Peter Miller, June 10, '65.

#### *Transferred*—6.

Pvt. D. L. McKenzie, Sept. 15,	Pvt. J. F. Wunderlich, March
1862.	1, 1864.
Pvt. W. B. Zecker, Jan. 15, '64.	Pvt. Levi Beck, Sept. 30, 1864.
" J. Englebert, March 15, '65.	" J. M. Tate, March 12, 1865.

#### *Died*—15.

Sergt. John F. Biesecker, died of wounds,	May 8th, 1864.
Corp. Emory McGuinn,	" " July 22d, 1864.
" Daniel Dewalt,	" " Sept. 22d, 1864.
Pvt. John Osborn,	" disease, Nov. 23d, 1862.
" John T. Lookenbill,	" wounds, Nov. 27th, 1863.
" Charles F. Ogden,	" " Nov. 27th, 1863.
" Wm. A. Hennig,	" " Nov. 30th, 1863.



Pvt. Robert Johnson, died of wounds Dec. 20th, 1863.  
 " Charles Dixon, " " May 6th, 1864.  
 " John Staub, " " May 18th, 1864.  
 " John Kitzmiller, " " June 1st, 1864.  
 " H. D. Gilbert, died while prisoner of war, Sept. 28th, '64.  
 " B. K. Culp, " " Sept. 17th, '64.  
 " Elias B. Wrights, died of disease, June 1st, 1865.  
 " Wm. H. H. Stultz, died of wounds, May 6th, 1864.

*Deserted—17.*

Corp. E. Diehl, July 14, 1864.	Pvt. Ed. Kane,* Feb. 28, 1865.
Pvt. J. D. Slider, Feb. 7, 1863.	" C. Morton,* " "
" B. Masser, May 8, 1863.	" J. Molony,* " "
" J. H. Walker, July 16, '63.	" C. Harris,* " "
" M. Whalon,* Feb. 28, 1865.	" C. McCormick,* " "
" T. Gainey,* " "	" P. Murphy,* " "
" C. Wallace,* " "	" J. Armstrong,* " "
" Wm. King,* " "	" M. C. Garner,* " "
" C. Meadows,* " "	

*List of Members of Company C, 138th Penna. Vols.,  
 as mustered out of service, June 23, 1865, at Wash-  
 ington, D. C.*

## COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

1st Lieut. Timothy Kane.

## SERGEANTS.

Matthias T. Server,  
 Charles R. Jones,  
 Samuel B. Salsburg,

Sylvester Makens,  
 Jason T. Butler.

## CORPORALS.

Joseph R. Moyer,  
 James R. Griffith,  
 Henry H. Shainline,  
 Jesse Slingluff,

George E. Lowery,  
 Chas. Pennypacker,  
 Aaron R. Selah,  
 Edmund H. Smith.

\*These men were recruits who never reported to the Regiment, and were consequently dropped as deserters, in accordance with proper authority.

MUSICIAN.—Edwin S. Sutch.

WAGONER.—Ferdinand Seaman.

PRIVATES.

Anderson, David F.  
Bodey, Charles A.  
Cutler, Levi  
Coulson, William H.  
Cornog, Henry P.  
Craft, Charles  
Cornell, Samuel  
Cole, John  
Davis, Marpold  
Dean, Samuel H.  
Dotts, Jacob H.  
Dell, Charles  
Emery, Jacob  
Fullerton, William  
Fitzgerald, Jesse O.  
Freese, Henry  
Fulmer, Henry  
Foreman, George W.  
Godshalk, Enos  
Garber, Charles  
Huston, John F.  
Hanley, Joseph S.

Jones, William H.  
Moore, William H.  
Markley, Winfield S.  
Markley, Abram  
Moyer, Jesse S.  
Makens, Chas. W.  
Mitchell, Amos  
Miller, James E.  
Noblit, Daniel M.  
Rhodenbaugh, Charles  
Sutch, Abram B.  
Sutch, Thomas B.  
Shinn, Richard N.  
Stiver, George  
Sill, Wilmer  
Smith, Currin F.  
Saylor, James C.  
Stewart, Thomas  
Wagner, Jesse  
Yost, Isaac C.  
Orner, Jesse H.

*List of the Officers and Enlisted Men who, after the original organization and prior to the discharge of the company, ceased to belong to it.*

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS—4.

Capt. Geo. W. Guss, discharged May 15, 1865.

1st. Lieut. Wm. Neiman, discharged Aug. 22, 1863.

2d Lieut. John A. Wills, " " 13, "

1st. Lieut. Saml. W. Cloward, died of wounds Nov. 1, 1864.

ENLISTED MEN.—Discharged—15.

1st Sergt. Henry S. Smith, Jan. 14, 1865. | 1st Sergt. C. H. Fitzgerald, Feb. 14, 1865.

1st Sergt. Samuel Aikens, May 30, 1865. | Pvt. Geo. W. Foreman, Dec. 11, 1863.

Pvt. Daniel Dewees, Oct. 7, 1863.	Pvt. C. Oxinger, Jan. 22, 1864.
" I. Dickinson, Feb. 28, 1863.	" A. Quarmby, Apr. 10, 1865.
Pvt. E. Griffith, Oct. 24, 1863.	" A. Spangler, Apr. 4, 1865.
" I. T. Johnson, Apr. 24, 1863.	" G. W. Neiman, May 31, 1865.
Pvt. John Knause, May 15, 1865.	" Wm. Wills, June 12, 1865.
" H. R. Lightcap, Feb. 21, '63	

*Transferred—2.*

Pvt. Geo. W. Wilson, Jan. 7, '65,	Pvt. W. F. Sensitive, date unknown.
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*Died—5.*

Pvt. Leidy Cook, died of disease, Dec. 7, 1862.  
 " Isaac P. Freese, died of wounds July 27, 1864.  
 " Jesse A. Myers, died while a prisoner of war, Sept. 20, 1864.  
 " Arnold Vanfossen, jr., died while a prisoner of war ; date  
 unknown.  
 Pvt. Joseph R. Skean, died of wounds May 6, 1864.

*Missing in action—4.*

Sergt. Benj. Uebele, Monocacy, Md., July 9, 1864.  
 Pvt. Wm. Carson, " " " "  
 " David L. Dotts, Cold Harbor, June 1, 1864.  
 " Wm. F. Jones, " " " "

*Deserted—4.*

Corp. M. Lightcap, Feb. 8, 1863.	Pvt. Lewis F. Ott, Nov. 6, 1862.
Pvt. J. M. Jones, Dec. 25, 1862.	" Chas. A. Yost, Jan. 13, 1864.

*List of Members of Company D, 138th Penna. Vols.,  
 as mustered out of service June 23, 1865, at Wash-  
 ington, D. C.*

## COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Capt. Oliver Horton,	1st Lieut. Emanuel Fisher.
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## SERGEANTS.

William Foster,	John B. Hammer,
William W. Ferguson,	Elias B. Stuckey.
William S. Sleek,	

## CORPORALS.

John E. O'Neal,  
George Gillam,

Isaac Ling,  
Allen Kinton.

MUSICIAN.—Solomon R. Thorpe.

WAGONER.—Thomas Kurtz.

## PRIVATES.

Beltz, John A.  
Beals, Geo. W.  
Burket, Isaac  
Burket, John  
Bivens, James W.  
Corl, William  
Hellman, George  
Harbaugh, Emanuel  
Hochard, John A.  
Ickes, George  
Kenard, John H.  
Ling, William H.  
Lowery, Emanuel  
Lease, Robt. H.  
Miller, Thomas

McVicker, William  
Mock, Aaron  
Moore, James  
Nangle, James  
Nycum, Bernard  
O'Neal, Emanuel  
Risling, Joseph  
Stuckey, Wilson H.  
Sellers, Fred. A.  
Shroyer, Moses  
Summerville, John B.  
Steckman, Philip H.  
Snyder, David  
Witt, Jacob  
Yarnell, John

*List of the Officers and Enlisted Men who, after the original organization and prior to the discharge of the company, ceased to belong to it.*

## COMMISSIONED OFFICERS—3.

Capt. John S. Stuckey, discharged Feb. 3, 1865.

\*1st. Lieut. Josiah Baughman, died Nov. 12, 1862.

1st Lieut. John A. Gump, died of wounds Oct. 20, 1864.

ENLISTED MEN.—*Discharged*—11.

Sergt. Henry McCleery, May 12, 1865.	Corp. H. Barkman, Jan. 12, '65.
Corp. Job M. Beazle, April 27, 1863.	Corp. Josiah Huffman, May 15, 1865.
	Pvt. N. H. Beals, May 20, 1865.

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\* Killed by Henry Roland, a deserter, whom he was attempting to arrest, near Cherneysville, Bedford Co., Pa., Nov. 12, 1862.

Pvt. John Mullin, March 5, 1864.	Pvt. J. G. Leasure, Feb. 10, '65.
" E. Mock, May 10, 1865.	" W. W. Ramsey, Aug. 1, '63.
" Wm. Lucas, May 18, 1865.	" M. P. Taylor, April 17, 1864.

*Transferred—3.*

Pvt. Fred. Neff, Jan. 15, 1865.	Pvt. John B. Kinsey, April 5,
" Jacob Thorpe, Jan. 17, 1863.	1863.

*Died—21.*

1st Sergt. Simon C. Stuckey, died of wounds Nov. 27, 1863.  
 " Jonathan Snider, " " Oct. 22, 1864.  
 " George Baughman, died while a prisoner of war  
 Sept. 13, 1864.  
 Corp. Wm. H. Lowery, died of disease April 15, 1864.  
 " E. J. Hixon, died of wounds, May 6, 1864.  
 " Jos. J. Price, " " " "  
 Musician John W. Thorpe, died of disease, August 2, 1864.  
 Pvt. Noah Allison, died of wounds June 5, 1864.  
 " Joseph Allison, died of disease, Jan. 26, 1864.  
 " John T. Dicken, " " March 30, "  
 " Daniel Hellman, " wounds, Nov. 27, 1863.  
 " George W. Ickes, " disease, Nov. 14, 1862.  
 " John E. Lowery, " wounds Nov. 28, 1863.  
 " John Layton, " disease, Oct. 6, 1864.  
 " Thomas J. Miller, died while prisoner of war, Sept.  
 13, 1864.  
 Pvt. John Nycum, died of wounds June 28, 1864.  
 " Hezekiah O'Neal, died of wounds Dec. 4, 1863.  
 " James S. Radcliff, " disease, July 26, 1864.  
 " Philip Wentz, " wounds, Nov. 27, 1863.  
 " Jesse Yarnell, " disease, July 22, 1864.  
 " Chas. Summerville, " wounds, May 6, 1864.

*Deserted—10.*

Corp. David Cook, Jan. 16, '63.	Pvt. Jackson Lape, Aug. 1, '64.
Pvt. David Barkman, Feb. 9, '63.	" Nathl. Leasure, Oct. 22, '62.
" Elisha Devers, Feb. 6, 1863.	" John Oaks, Feb. 6, 1863.
" Harvey Evans, Dec. 20, '62.	" Philip Porter, Feb. 9, 1863.
" Nathl. Imes, Sept. 19, 1864.	" Henry Roland, Oct. 22, '62.

*List of Members of Company E, 138th Penna. Vols.,  
as mustered out of service June 23, 1865, at Wash-  
ington, D. C.*

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Capt. Simon Dickerhoof,	2d Lieut. Reuben W. Cook.
1st. Lieut. Thos. A. Prideaux,	

SERGEANTS.

Francis M. Slack,	Wm. Line,
Wm. T. Filler,	Geo. W. Gray.
Daniel Beard,	

CORPORALS.

James E. Over,	Andrew Cobler,
Abraham Carpenter,	Samuel Ridenbaugh,
Samuel Barkley,	John Claar.
George W. Barkley,	

MUSICIAN.—John A. Baughman.

WAGONER.—Lewis Mock.

PRIVATES.

Ake, John G.	Hoenstine, F. B.
Benner, John	Imler, Ephraim Y.
Beaver, Nicholas	Imler, Geo. R.
Baily, John W.	Kegg, Nathaniel
Bailey, William	Long, George
Burket, David	Leonard, John D.
Burge, Joseph	Leonard, Henry N.
Crawford, James	Lemmon, William
Couch, Harry	Meloy, Biven D.
Cook, John H.	Mock, Malachi
Claycomb, Conrad	Price, Jacob
Carrell, Joseph	Riffle, William
Cobler, Allen	Robinson, William J.
Carl, Jacob	Reighard, Matthias
Carl, Franklin	Richey, Jacob
Claar, Jacob C.	Richey, John
Dull, Valentine	Stevens, Jacob B.
Feight, Henry H.	Stineman, William
Fait, John	Stiffler, Nathaniel
Fleegle, George W.	Saupp, James
Gordon, Isaac	Speck, Henry
Gardner, Chas.	Wise, Andrew H.

*List of the Officers and Enlisted Men who, after the original organization, and prior to the discharge of the company, ceased to belong to it.*

#### COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

1st Lieut. John Getty, discharged April 13, 1864.

#### ENLISTED MEN.—*Discharged*—9.

Corp. H. H. King, June 7, '865.	Pvt. John Stiffler, July 16, 1863.
Pvt. Jacob Briegle, Dec. 19, '63.	" Tobias Miller, May 4, 1864.
" Adw. Biddle, April 22, '65.	" I. Nicodemus, May 3, 1865.
" Wm. H. Rea, Sept. 17, '63.	" Simon M. Feather, May
" James Rollins, July 16, '63.	30, 1865.

#### *Transferred*—7.

Pvt. M. G. Bagley, Jan. 15, '65.	Pvt. Danl. J. Price, May 12, '64.
" L. Defibaugh, Feb. 3, 1864.	" Saml. Schritchfield, April
" Josiah Glenn, Jan. 12, '64.	5, 1863.
" J. A. Gilchrist, May 2, '64.	Pvt. Miles N. Smith, May 11, '65.

#### *Died*—17.

Sergt. Wm. B. Amick, died of wounds May 6, 1864.  
 Corp. William Ake, " " " "  
 " Francis Steckman, " " June 5, "  
 Pvt. Levi Blackburn, died of disease Nov. 19, 1862.  
 " Joseph Blackburn, " wounds Sept. 1, 1864.  
 " Adam Beltz, " " June 5, "  
 " Abraham Corl, " " May 10, "  
 " David B. Craine, " " Oct. 19, "  
 " George W. Feather, died of disease Oct. 25, 1862.  
 " Abraham Feight, " " Nov. 13, "  
 " Daniel G. Helzel, " " Nov. 1, "  
 " Simon Helzel, " " Nov. 9, "  
 " David Hoenstine, " " Nov. 4, "  
 " Daniel Imler, " " Jan. 4, 1865.  
 " Abraham Price, " " Oct. 19, 1862.  
 " Wm. R. Smith, " " Feb. 11, 1865.  
 Samuel Ward, died while prisoner of war, July 30, 1864.

#### *Missing in Action*—5.

Corp. Martin L. Comly, at Winchester, Va., Sept. 19th, 1864.  
 Pvt. Samuel M. Clark, at Monocacy, Md., July 9th, 1864.



Pvt. Daniel Carrell, at Cold Harbor, Va., June 1st, 1864.

“ Wm. H. Defibaugh, at Wilderness, Va., May 6th 1864.

“ Joseph Lay, “ “ “ “

*Deserted—4.*

Pvt. J. Bailey, March 3, 1863. | Pvt. Sierus Fickans, Nov. 9, '62.

“ Adam Crayle, Feb. 26, '63. | “ Wm. Helzel, June 13, 1863.

*List of Members of Company F, 138th P. V., as  
mustered out of service, June 23d, 1865, at Wash-  
ington, D. C.*

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Capt. Martin S. Bortz, | 1st Lieut. C. P. Calhoun.

SERGEANTS.

Levi Cook,		Harvey Shaffer,
Joseph Barclay,		John W. Mauk.
Jesse Miller,		

CORPORALS.

Jeremiah Moser,		Henry C. Ritchie,
Daniel Wolford,		Ephraim B. Miller,
Marcus May,		Marian Statler,
Joseph Cobler,		Joseph Shroyer.

PRIVATES.

Armstrong, Albert		May, Hiram
Baner, Franklin		Owens, Chancey
Earnest, William		Robb, Samuel
Feight, William		Smith, George
Geller, George		Smith, Jacob
Holler, George W.		Smith, John W.
Holler, John		Shaffer, Tobias
Kellerman, James		Shaffer, Thomas
Kelly, William		Smith, Simon
Lowry, Oliver		Valentine, John
Miller, Abraham		Walford, Frederick

*List of the Officers and Enlisted Men who, after the original organization, and prior to the discharge of company, ceased to belong to it.*

#### COMMISSIONED OFFICERS—2.

Capt. John W. Feight, transferred; appointed Chaplain Feb. 21st, 1865.

1st Lieut. C. P. McLaughlin, died of wounds, June 1st, 1864.

#### ENLISTED MEN.—*Discharged*—9.

Sergt. F. Mowry, May 2, 1864. | Pvt. Adam Smith, Oct. 1, 1863.

" John Geller, April 6, '65. | " C. G. Steuby, Mar. 6, '65.

Corp. J. W. May, Oct. 25, 1864. | " David Bush, May 15, 1865.

" F. G. Ritchey, May 12, '65. | " D. M. Ball, May 26, 1865.

Pvt. Lewis Elder, Feb. 26, '63.

#### *Transferred*—1.

Pvt. Linton W. Bingham, Jan. 28th, 1865.

#### *Died*—10.

Sergt. Jacob Whip, died of wounds, Dec. 3d, 1863.

" Jackson Miller, " " May 6th, 1864.

Corp. Jno. B. Steckman, died of disease, Dec. 23d, 1862.

" M. T. Foor, died while prisoner of war, Mar. 20th, '65.

Pvt. David Smith, died of wounds, Oct. 20th, 1862.

" George W. Troutman, died of disease, Nov. 29th, 1862.

" Abbin Boor, " " Aug. 17th, 1863.

" George W. Robb, " wounds, Nov. 27th, 1863.

" Wm. Waggerman, " disease, Dec. 8th, 1863.

" Henry Miller, " wounds, May 20th, 1864.

#### *Missing in Action*—2.

Corp. Shannon E. McCoy, at Cold Harbor, June 1st, 1864.

Pvt. Henry Kelly, " " " "

#### *Deserted*—12.

Sergt. S. May, March 30, 1863. | Pvt. F. H. Hayman, Nov. 6, '62.

Pvt. Sam. Hunt, Sept. 1, 1862. | " P. Reighard, Feb. 18, 1863.

" J. T. Hunt, " " | " N. Tipton, March 18, 1863.

" John Deal, Oct. 23, 1862. | " R. F. Henderson, June 29,

" D. Kingsley, " " | 1863.

" J. Hickman, Sept. 27, 1862. | Pvt. J. R. Vickroy, Nov. 28, '63.

" C. Harden, Feb. 7, 1863.

*List of Members of Company G, 138th Penna. Vols.,  
as mustered out of service June 23, 1865, at Wash-  
ington, D. C.*

Captain George W. Mullin.

SERGEANTS.

Nicholas G. Wilson,  
William Cline,  
Edward Detrick,

David Slaybaugh,  
William A. Pitzer,

CORPORALS.

William Reed,  
George Barchet,  
Amos B. Shank,  
Isaac E. Cook,

C. P. K. Walter,  
James A. McGrail,  
Henry C. Sadler,  
John C. Shriver.

MUSICIANS.

Isaiah B. Meals,

| David Herman.

WAGONER.—William Bolen.

PRIVATEES.

Bender, Howard W.  
Brame, William H.  
Black, Michael F.  
Bushey, Jacob  
Cook, Cyrus G.  
Conrad, Henry G.  
Corbet, Andrew  
Camp, Charles F.  
Ebert, Jesse  
Eppleman, E. G.  
Freet, Jonas  
Heller, Benj. F.  
Irwin, Geo. W.  
Johnson, Alfred D.  
Jacobs, Benjamin F. K.  
Kann, Howard W.

Klepper, Theodore  
Kelly, Samuel  
Linah, Forrest  
McKonly, Isaac  
Meals, Amos  
Melhorn, William F.  
Overholtzer, Theodore  
Routzong, Geo. W.  
Starry, Amos  
Sadler, Wm. F.  
Sarbaugh, Wm.  
Scott, John G.  
Thomas, Amos R.  
Toot, John  
Weigle, Samuel M.  
Ziegler, Henry

*List of the Officers and Enlisted Men who, after the original organization and prior to the discharge of the company, ceased to belong to it.*

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS—2.

Captain James H. Walter, discharged March 26, 1865.  
1st. Lieut. George W. Wilson, discharged August 29, 1864.

ENLISTED MEN.—*Discharged*—11.

Pvt. E. C. Blocher, May 15, '65.	Pvt. Abm. Hummer, Feb. 8, '63.
" J. C. Cleaver, May 26, '65.	" J. Klepper, April 29, 1865.
" Isaiah B. Crist, Dec. 15, '64.	" H. D. Little, Feb. 23, 1864.
" C. B. Crist, Dec. 8, 1864.	" J. N. Walter, Feb. 21, '63.
" Danl. Hartzell, Oct. 6, '63.	" E. Walhey, April 29, 1864.
" J. C. Hankey, March 13, '64.	

*Died*—20.

Sergt. Luther Y. Hoffman, died of disease Nov. 12, 1862.  
" Thomas F. Elden, died of wounds June 7, 1864.  
Corp. Amos Hoffman, " " July 17, "  
" David H. Chronister, " " May 14, "  
" Amos F. Hoffman, died while prisoner of war Dec. 13, 1864.  
Pvt. Edwin Brame, died of wounds, June 1, 1864.  
" Joseph Beck, " " Sept. 19, "  
" Jonas Eppleman, " " Nov. 27, 1863.  
" Martin Fehl, " " June 1, 1864.  
" Elias N. Hartzell, " " April 6, 1865.  
" Quincy Linah, " " May 6, 1864.  
" Charles Loman, " disease July 6, 1863.  
" Alfred Livingston, died of wounds July 9, 1864.  
" John P. Slaybaugh, died of disease Dec. 6, 1862.  
" Charles Slagle, died of wounds Nov. 27, 1863.  
" Cornelius Slaybaugh, died of wounds May 6, 1864.  
" David Stoner, died of disease Nov. 9, 1862.  
" Jacob W. Schultz, died of disease Feb. 12, 1864.  
" James Warren, died of wounds May 6, 1864.  
" William J. Walker, died of disease, Nov. 10, 1862.

*Deserted*—6.

Corp. G. A. Thoman, July 15, '63.	Pvt. Isaac Wank, Feb. 6, 1863.
Pvt. L. B. Ferree, July 16, '63.	" George Warren, "
" Henry Linebaugh, "	" Fred. Warren, "

*List of Members of Company H, 138th P. V., as  
mustered out of service June 23d, 1865, at Wash-  
ington, D. C.*

1st Lieut. William B. Lovett.

SERGEANTS.

Joseph Godshall,  
John Hayes,  
Joseph B. Heaton,

John H. Markley,  
Isaac White.

CORPORALS.

Samuel Gee,  
William W. Rogers,  
Andrew Bothel,  
George W. Sigafos,

William P. Barber,  
John Rymond,  
Henry C. Skelton,  
John F. Lovett.

MUSICIAN—William Case, Jr.

WAGONER—George Doan.

PRIVATES.

Butler, Hugh  
Cooper, William  
Cope, Abraham  
Evernham, Aaron I.  
Hillborn, Samuel  
Hilbert, Henry  
Hibbs, Henry C.  
Hare, William B.  
Jordan, Josiah  
Pidcock, James

Pettit, James  
Smith, Elias S.  
Smith, Francis  
Smith, Lewis R.  
Sigafos, Frederick  
Sipherd, John  
Vansant, Thomas  
Vinson, James  
Yocum, Jonathan

*List of the Officers and Enlisted Men who, after the  
original organization and prior to the discharge of  
the company, ceased to belong to it.*

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS—2.

Capt. Lazarus C. Andrews, died of wounds, Nov. 12th, 1863.  
2d Lieut. John Sigafos, discharged, May 28th, 1864.

ENLISTED MEN.—*Discharged*—17.

Sgt. A. G. Rapp, Ap'l 12, 1864.	Pvt. H. H. Heaton, Feb. 26, '63.
Corp. S. H. Brand, Feb. 27, '63.	" G. W. Lowery, Oct. 26, '63.
" W. W. Cadwallader, May 12, 1865.	" T. S. Lewis, May 12, 1865.
Corp. J. D. Kindy, May 12, '65.	" J. McCammon, Dec. 17, '64.
Pvt. H. Bissey, Oct. 26, 1863.	" S. C. Price, March 3, 1863.
" M. H. Bennett, Dec. 18, '63.	" R. Scheetz, April 27, 1865.
" A. Cadwallader, March 20, 1863.	" S. Sigafoos, May 2, 1865.
Pvt. Chas. Doan, Feb. 25, 1863.	" J. Warford, May 12, 1865.
	" D. Strouse, June 6, 1865.

*Transferred*—4.

Corp. J. F. Frantz, Dec. 16, '64.	Pvt. S. Duckworth, Sept. 26, '63.
Pvt. J. Butler, Jan. 1, 1865.	" C. Smith, April 19, 1864.

*Died*—8.

Corp. John H. Reilly, died of disease, Oct. 17th, 1862.	
Pvt. John H. Barrell, died of wounds, Nov. 27th, 1863.	
" C. B. Evernham, " " June 5th, 1864.	
" James R. Green, " " Sept. 19th, 1864.	
" John K. Moyer, " " May 30th, 1864.	
" Paul Pursell, " " March 28th, 1863.	
" William H. Ruple, " " June 1st, 1864.	
" Abraham K. Wismer, died of disease, Sept. 30th, 1864.	

*Missing in Action*—4.

Pvt. Amos C. Beuley, at Wilderness, Va., May 6th, 1864.	
" Chas. L. Heaton, " " " "	
" Jacob Nunemaker, " " " "	
" Robert Rodgers, " " " "	

*List of Members of Company I, 138th Penna. Vols., as mustered out of service June 23, 1865, at Washington, D. C.*

## COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Captain Wm. C. Ensley,	1st Lieut. Osceola Lewis.
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## SERGEANTS.

George H. Reess,	Sylvester W. Snyder,
George W. Shoffner,	John Shoffner,
David D. Bath,	

## CORPORALS.

Joseph Scattergood,  
 Trustrim Connell,  
 Staats V. D. Wack,  
 John W. Stoker,

Matthias Tyson,  
 Edward Sprogell,  
 John Cook,  
 Benjamin Althouse.

MUSICIAN.—Samuel M. Lewis.

WAGONER.—John Hallman.

## PRIVATES.

Bennett, John S.  
 Batman, John  
 Bennett, Isaac  
 Batman, Josiah  
 Baker, Edward  
 Barnick, William  
 Dolbey, Edmund  
 Dier, Paul  
 Deemer, William  
 Evans, William G..  
 Earle, Charles H.  
 Fry, John G.  
 Hendricks, William W.  
 Hagey, Joseph D.  
 Hurd, John  
 Hay, James M.  
 Hughes, Harry R.  
 Long, Eli  
 Moore, Samuel P.  
 Maurer, Charles

Murry, Mahlon W.  
 Pugh, William H.  
 Parks, James  
 Prinzing, Charles  
 Renner, William  
 Reinbold, Peter  
 Shelmire, David F.  
 Schoenian, Otto  
 Smith, Seth C.  
 Schodstadt, Augustus  
 Seifert, John  
 Smith, George W.  
 Tyson, Jacob  
 Trauger, Jonas  
 Tucker, William E.  
 Vansant, William H.  
 Watson, William H.  
 Wilkinson, S. M.  
 Williams, Joseph L.  
 Williams, Charles L.

*List of the Officers and Enlisted Men who, after the original organization and prior to the discharge of the company, ceased to belong to it.*

## COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Capt. Augustus G. Feather, dismissed Sept. 13, 1864.

“ Jonathan T. Rorer, honorably discharged April 5, 1865.

2d Lieut. John H. Fisher, died of wounds May 6, 1864.



ENLISTED MEN.—*Discharged*—10.

Pvt. Thos. Altemus, Feb. 18, '63.	Pvt. John F. Hay, May 16, '65.
" W. W. Bennett, Jan. 28, '65.	" S. K. Renner, Feb. 18, '63.
" Peter Frey, Feb. 18, 1863.	" B. F. Roberts, May 5, '65.
" Joseph Holt, August 10, '64.	" C. Rudolph, May 12, '65.
" H. Hinkle, May 16, 1865.	" Joshua Wood, Feb. 18, '63.

*Transferred*—7.

Sergt. J. W. Kennedy, Sept. 19, 1862.	Musician Wm. Earle, Oct. 30, '64.
Sergt. R. Hallowell, May 16, '65.	Pvt. W. H. Heritage, Jan. 7, '65.
Corp. G. W. Callahan, March 1, 1864.	" Osceola Lewis, Dec. 1, '64.
	" Reese Pugh, March 17, '64.

*Died*—12.

Corp. George H. Kolp, died of wounds May 17, 1864.	
" Christian Kastler, " " April 3, 1865.	
Pvt. Wm. Batman, " " May 6, 1864.	
" William Eppright, " " July 29, 1864.	
" Samuel R. Ireton, died while prisoner of war, Oct. 10, '64.	
" Joseph T. Michener, died of wounds June 8, 1864.	
" Joseph J. Roberts, " disease Nov. 5, 1862.	
" Joseph Rohr, " " July 9, 1864.	
" Christian Stagner, " " May 6, 1864.	
" Henry Swartley, " " " "	
" Eli Thomas, died (cause unknown) Feb. 11, 1863.	
" James Wilson, died of wounds Sept. 19, 1864.	

*Missing in Action*—1.

Pvt. Reuben F. Crouthamel, at Locust Grove, Va., Nov. 27, '63.

*Deserted*—2.

Pvt. R. C. Clymer, Oct. 22, '64.] Pvt. Jer. Mitchell, June 3, '63.

*List of Members of Company K, 138th Penna. Vols.,  
as mustered out of service June 23, 1865, at Wash-  
ington, D. C.*

1st Lieut. Jonathan P. Iredell.

SERGEANTS.

Israel C. Wood,  
Jacob W. Trout,  
William H. Shively,

George R. Palmer,  
Lewis P. Yetter.

CORPORALS.

Barclay Kenderdine,  
Charles W. Umstead,  
Benjamin F. Walton,  
John H. Smith,

Charles R. Magee,  
Henry H. Umstead,  
John B. Undercoffler.

MUSICIANS.

John Lingle,

| Levi P. Heffelfinger.

WAGONER.—Josiah Emery.

PRIVATEs.

Ashton, George W.  
Allen, Pierson,  
Bright, Samuel E.  
Brey, Servatus S.  
Brown, George R.  
Blaker, John  
Biddle, William B.  
Cannon, James  
Cratz, John  
Dutter, George W.  
Donahue, John  
Gebphart, Noah B.  
Hoffnagle, Conrad  
Kinginer, Silas  
Kelly, John D.  
Kulp, Henry  
Kelly, Michael

Linker, Daniel  
Mostler, Charles  
McCabe, Dennis  
Murphy, John  
Neff, William  
Puff, Hiram M.  
Paulus, George K.  
Rhoads, Franklin  
Seigfried, Henry C.  
Sabold, Eli  
Undercoffler, James W.  
Undercoffler, Jonas  
Whalon, Thomas  
Wasser, Enos R.  
Weid, John  
Woodhust, John A.  
Ziegler, John C.

*List of the Officers and Enlisted Men who, after the original organization and prior to the discharge of the company, ceased to belong to it.*

#### COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Capt. Richard T. Stewart, honorably discharged May 15, 1865.  
1st Lieut. Amos W. Bertolet, " " Jan. 23, 1863.  
2d Lieut. Abraham H. Kline, dismissed August 17, 1863.

#### ENLISTED MEN.—Discharged—8.

Corp. Elias Lewis, April 24, '64.	Pvt. I. K. Shoemaker, Dec. 22, '64.
" Chas. Wood, April 28, '64.	" C. T. Lukens, April 12, '65.
" S. Hallman, May 13, '65.	" H. Nicholas, April 15, '65.
Pvt. Jas. Berks, March 7, '64.	" H. C. Moser, June 5, '65.

#### Transferred—2.

Pvt. Jas. G. Wells, Sept. 1, '62. | Pvt. E. D. Ervin, March 7, '65.

#### Died—17.

1st Sergt. Chas. B. Thompson, died of wounds May 6, 1864.  
" Stokes C. Bodder, " " April 6, 1865.  
Corp. William P. Iredell, died of sunstroke July 16, 1863.  
" Solomon Sabold, " disease Feb. 20, 1864.  
" John H. Ashenfelter, " wounds May 5, 1864.  
" Daniel Kulp, " " " 6, "  
Pvt. Amos Mullen, died of disease Oct. 25, 1862.  
" David Kinginer, " " April 22, 1853.  
" Patrick Monagan, died of wounds, March 13, 1864.  
" George H. Burke, " " May 6, 1864.  
" Benjamin Brayman, " " " "  
" John F. Miller, " " " "  
" Rinehart P. March, " " " 25, "  
" Peter L. Fluck, died of wounds August 6, 1864.  
" S. McCullough, died while prisoner of war Sept. 19, 1864.  
" Aaron Mattis, " " " Oct. 12, "  
" Sylvester Merrick, " " " " 13, "

#### Missing in Action—2.

Pvt. Edwin Steiner, at Wilderness, Va., May 6, 1864.  
" Jeremiah Leshner, at " " " "

*Deserted—8.*

Corp. A. Hoffman, June 16, '63.	Pvt. Wm. Trear, Feb. 11, 1863.
Pvt. Joshua Emery, Dec. 9, '62.	“ E. N. Benner, Feb. 27, '63.
“ Owen Emery, “ “	“ Chas. O'Neil, July 4, 1863.
“ Jacob Huzzard, Feb. 6, '63.	“ B. McMahon, “ “

## CHAPTER XVI.

## MEMORANDA AND STATISTICS.

*List of Battles in which the Regiment was actually engaged.*

BRANDY STATION.

LOCUST GROVE.

WILDERNESS.

SPOTTSYLVANIA.

COLD HARBOR.

MONOCACY.

OPEQUAN.

FISHER'S HILL.

CEDAR CREEK.

PETERSBURG.

SAILOR'S CREEK.

*List of Skirmishes.*

Wapping Heights, July 23, 1863.

Kelly's Ford, Nov. 7, 1863.

Talopotomoy, May 31, 1864.

Bermuda Hundred, June 17, 1864.

Snicker's Gap, July 18, 1864.

Charlestown, August 21, 1864.

Smithfield, August 29, 1864.

New Market, Sept. 24, 1864.

*Summary of Casualties from date of organization to discharge.*

KILLED IN BATTLE.

2 officers and 49 enlisted men. Total, 51.

WOUNDED.

18 officers and 321 enlisted men. Total, 339.

MISSING.

31 enlisted men. Total, 31.

Total, killed, wounded and missing, 20 officers and 401 enlisted men. Aggregate, 421.

MEMORANDA.

Number of prisoners captured by the enemy, 1 officer and 47 enlisted men. Total, 48.

Number killed and died of wounds during service, 7 officers and 87 men. Total, 94.

Number died of disease, 54 enlisted men,

## SUMMARY OF DISTANCES TRAVERSED.

## TRANSPORTED BY RAILWAY.

	MILES.
From Harrisburg, Pa., to Relay House, Md., - - -	100
“ Relay House to Harper’s Ferry, - - -	80
“ Washington, D. C., to Frederick, Md., - - -	80
“ Baltimore, Md., to Monocacy, Md., - - -	60
“ Baltimore to Washington, - - -	40
“ Monocacy to Harper’s Ferry, - - -	25
“ Winchester, Va., to Washington, - - -	160
“ Danville to Richmond, - - -	140
“ Washington to Harrisburg, - - -	140
Total,	825

## TRANSPORTED BY WATER.

	MILES.
From Wilcox’s Landing to City Point, Va., - - -	25
“ City Point to Baltimore, - - -	300
“ Washington to City Point, - - -	300
	625

## DISTANCES MARCHED.

	MILES.
From Harper’s Ferry to Washington, - - -	60
“ Frederick to Williamsport, and thence via Harper’s Ferry to Culpeper C. H., Va., - - -	300
From Culpeper to Defences of Washington, - - -	60
“ Washington to Culpeper (diverse route), - - -	75
“ Brandy Station to Mine Run and return, - - -	75
“ Brandy Station to Petersburg (average), - - -	250
“ Monocacy to Baltimore, - - -	60
“ Washington to Berryville and return, - - -	140
“ Washington to Harper’s Ferry, - - -	75
“ Harper’s Ferry to Frederick, - - -	35
“ Harper’s Ferry to Strasburg and return, - - -	130
“ Harper’s Ferry to Berryville, - - -	20
“ Berryville to Harrisonburg, - - -	100
Carried over, - - -	1380

	MILES.
Carried forward, - - - - -	1380
From Harrisonburg to Winchester, - - - - -	100
“ Cedar Creek to Martinsburg and return, - - - - -	75
“ Petersburg to Appomattox C. H., (average), - - - - -	100
“ Appomattox to Burkesville, - - - - -	60
“ Burkesville to Danville, - - - - -	110
“ Richmond to Washington, - - - - -	150
	<hr/>
	1975
Transported by rail, - - - - -	825
“ “ water, - - - - -	625—1450
Total (average) distances marched, - - - - -	1975
	<hr/>
	3425

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NOTE.—This table of distances is not warranted to be precisely correct, but if sifted will be found to be free from exaggeration, and at a moderate average calculation reliable. While it presents an idea of the extent of *general* movements, it excludes unimportant and less extensive ones, the sum of which would be very considerable.



# SUMMARY OF GAINS AND LOSSES.

	ORIGINAL STRENGTH.	JOINED.	DISCHARGED, DIED, TRANSFERRED, &c.	REMAINING AT MUSTER OUT.	
	Men..... Officers ...	Men..... Officers ...	Men..... Officers ...	Men..... Officers ...	Aggregate.
FIELD AND STAFF,					
Company A,	3	10	6	7	13
" B,	3	19	4	3	73
" C,	3	18	4	3	66
" D,	3	9	4	1	59
" E,	3	3	3	2	43
" F,	3	6	1	3	61
" G,	3	6	2	2	37
" H,	3	2	2	1	49
" I,	3	2	2	1	35
" K,	3	6	3	2	57
	3	7	3	1	50
	33	88	34	26	543
	823	955	378	517	

## LIST OF PROMOTIONS OF OFFICERS MADE IN THE YEAR 1865.

Lieut.-Col. Lewis A. May from Major, Feb. 12.

Asst. Surgeon Thos. P. Tomlinson, appointed May 8th.

Chaplain John W. Feight, appointed from Captain Company F, Feb. 21st.

*Company A.*—2d Lieut. Daniel A. Reiff, from Sergeant, April 3d.

*Company B.*—2d Lieut. David M. McKnight, from 1st Sergeant, Jan. 5th.

*Company D.*—Captain Oliver Horton, from 1st Lieutenant, Feb. 20th ; 1st Lieut. Emanuel Fisher, from 1st Sergeant, Feb. 22d.

*Company F.*—Captain Martin S. Bortz, from 1st Lieutenant, Feb 21st ; 1st Lieut. C. P. Calhoun, from 1st Sergeant, Feb. 21st.

*Company G.*—Captain George W. Mullen, from 1st Lieutenant, May 15th ; 1st Lieut. George W. Mullen, from 2d Lieutenant, Feb. 20th.

*Company I.*—Capt. William C. Ensley, from 1st Lieutenant, May 15th ; 1st Lieut. Osceola Lewis, from Sergeant Major, May 16th.

*Non-commissioned Staff.*—Sergeant Major Reuben Hallowell, from Sergeant Co. I, May 16th.

## APPOINTMENTS OF MERIT.

Colonel M. R. McClennan, to be *Brigadier General\* by brevet*, for gallant and meritorious services, especially at the battles of Petersburg and Sailor's Creek, April 2d and 6th, 1865.

Captain Jonathan T. Rorer, to be *Major by brevet*, for gallant and meritorious services as Staff Officer to Gen. J. W. Keifer, in the Shenandoah Valley Campaign, to date from October 19, 1864.

Captain Simon Dickerhoof, to be *Major\* by brevet*, for long, faithful and meritorious services, to date from April 2d, 1865.

A medal of honor and a 30-days' furlough were awarded to Corporal Trustim Connell, Co. I, by the Secretary of War, for the capture of the battle-flag of a rebel (Virginia) regiment, at Sailor's Creek, April 6th, 1865.

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\*Appointment not received until after discharge.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### CONCLUSION.

In previous chapters, as readily and voluminously as the facilities within the grasp of the writer would warrant, and without wilful deviation from the characteristics promised in introduction, has been given a history of the organization, garrison services and field operations of a command, which we, whose names appear on its record, are proud to call "Our Regiment."

We do not claim to have displayed valor or endurance in excellence of our comrades of other organizations, or from other States or districts; nor can we boast like some of having traversed all the territory of Rebeldom—of fighting more battles than we had stars on our banner—or of experiencing more casualties in number than we had names on our rolls; but we do profess to have performed the duties assigned us during our period of service without bringing reproach upon our name or dishonor to our flag.

Towards other troops we have no selfish pride and no jealousy, for we believe in the words of

Lieut. General Grant, that "All have a proud record, and all sections can well congratulate themselves and each other for having done their full share in restoring the supremacy of law over every foot of territory belonging to the United States."

This, though an unburnished and imperfect sketch—a mere summary—will show where the 138th has been, and, to a certain degree, what it has experienced. Its pages show the names of all its members in their classification; of those who were transferred from its ranks to other branches of service; those who were discharged by reason of incapacity for military duty; those whose lives were sacrificed in battle or wasted by disease; and those who "came marching home" uninjured to enjoy the blessings their heroism purchased—to all of which we point with no little emulation.

And there is still another class of a few individuals to be noticed—but not with the same respect—those officers and men who by unmanly deportment, cowardly misdemeanor and base desertion, disgraced their cause and forfeited their own reputation. They are committed for such treatment as their actions deserve.

To close the account of the regiment's career will now require but few additional sentences.

On Friday, June 23, 1865, the 138th was mustered out of the military service, and ceased to exist as an organization of the National armies. Our discharge was the immediate precedent of a separation from commanders and comrades whom we had learned to both respect and love; and before abandoning these associations, joined by patriotism, bound by hardship, and rivetted by danger, alike conceived and mutually shared, our boys to their fellow-soldiers paid the compliments of a farewell greeting. On the night of the 24th the regiment paraded in illumination, and visited the camps of all the remaining troops of the 3d Division: officers represented the sentiments of the occasion by pertinent speeches, and men by expressive cheers. June 25th we marched to the City of Washington, and started by rail to Pennsylvania. We left the Army of the Potomac with gladness, because we were going from the turmoil of War to the glorious enjoyment of Peace, and with the pride and satisfaction of an honorable membership in its ranks. In leaving our favorite corps, the "fighting Sixth," we did not forget to hold in high esteem its memory, and to preserve its boasted badge of distinction—"the Grecian Cross." We went to our homes with the principle "honor to whom honor is due," and

with "good will towards men." We removed ourselves from military jurisdiction, but for our leaders, from Grant, "our great captain," Meade, "the right man in the right place," Sheridan, the champion of raiders and the terror of his enemies, and Wright, the able successor of the lamented Sedgwick, to Ricketts and Keifer, our popular Division and Brigade commanders, we entertained the respect and admiration due the ability and sagacity which marked their course in conducting us in camp and field.

The two last named general officers were especially endeared to us by their intimate relations with their troops, and in honor of this fact they have been introduced in a manner deemed appropriate as prominent features of interest in this work.

As it was determined "to avoid individual eulogies," many compliments and credits which might have been given to their actions, as well as to the actions of numbers of our own comrades, without flattery or falsity, are omitted.

But every man who fought and marched under the leadership of these gallant men, cannot fail to remember their devotion to the cause as shown upon many a bloody field. Gen. Ricketts, our hero of Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, Monocacy,



and the Valley, for his bright record, the courtesy shown his soldiers on all occasions, and the kind farewell and tearful "God speed" he gave our regiment on its departure from the Capital, has a place in every heart; and Gen. J. Warren Keifer, who lead us with the zeal and ability of an excellent commander, at Brandy Station, Locust Grove, Opequan, Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek, and in our last battles, is by us remembered not only as a gallant soldier, but as a good friend.

But now, to all military connexions we will bid a final adieu.

We arrived at the State rendezvous at Harrisburg on the 26th of June, and on the 29th received final payments and discharge.

On the following day the regiment was permanently dissolved. Companies A, C, I and K, proceeded to Norristown; Company H, to Doylestown; Companies B, and G, to Gettysburg, and Companies D, E, and F, to Bedford, where they were formally and hospitably welcomed by those who, during the hour of trial, were their friends and supporters. It is a glad truth to record that the men from the several counties parted in fellowship, went to their homes with mutual good feeling, and returned to pursuits of industry with equanimity and with credit to themselves. As a

parting tribute it can be said with justice, that equal honor can be claimed by all soldiers, of whatever grade or capacity, who are conscious of having performed their duty in good faith toward the country in whose defense they rallied.

The merit of commanding sagacity belongs to the officer, the virtue of faithful execution to the soldier, and the care, provision and support of both these to the non-combatant. Each are absolutely necessary, and without either, nothing could be accomplished.

If, however, there is due any class more consideration or special commendation, let it be given to the private soldier who paced the lonely picket walk on the outposts of exposure and danger, plied the spade in the trenches, and wielded the rifle on the battle-line.

Let the dead be honored, the maimed kindly cared for, and the uninjured survivor respected.

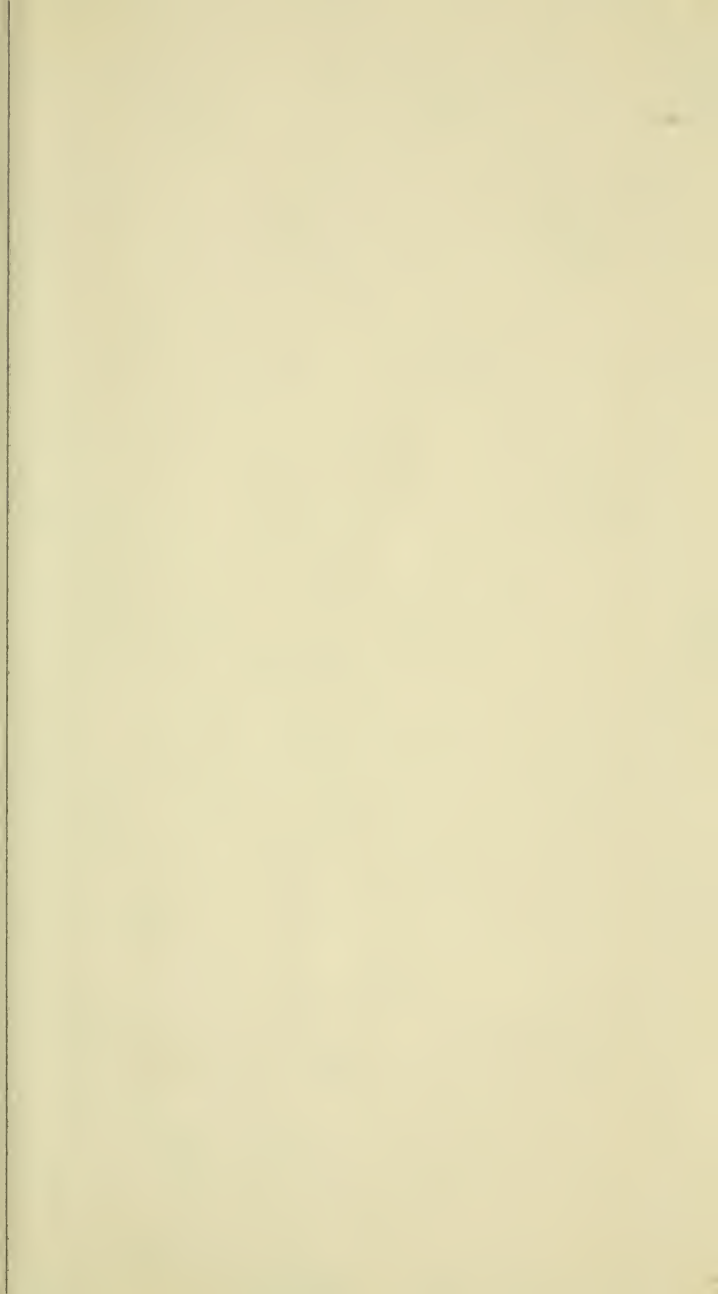
No character can have a prouder garb than that of faithful services rendered a glorious country, and the name of the Union soldier who aided in the overthrow of the Great Rebellion, deserves to be cherished by a grateful people, in this and after generations.

THE END.

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